

Geneva talks bring hope of summit on arms control

From Richard Owen, Geneva

After 15 hours of talks spread over two days, including a gruelling final bargaining session of nearly six hours, Mr George Shultz and Mr Andrei Gromyko last night agreed to meet again, a move greeted as a resumption of Soviet-American dialogue.

Informed sources said after the end of the last session at the American mission, which went on well into the evening, that talks on arms control would begin again after a gap of 15 months. Future meetings will cover key armaments issues, including weapons in space, land and sea-based strategic missiles and intermediate-range missiles.

Full details will be announced by President Reagan in Washington today. There is speculation that Mr Reagan and President Gorbachev may now be able to meet in an East-West summit later in the year, provided the projected arms talks proceed smoothly.

Mr Shultz emerged from the mission on the Avenue de la Paix looking tired and drawn. Sources said the final session, which began at 2.30 pm, had gone into recess at 4 pm so that Mr Shultz could consult President Reagan. The session could have lasted until 8 pm.

The last arms control talks, the START talks on strategic missiles and the INF talks on intermediate-range missiles, broke down in the winter of 1983.

Senior American officials, including Mr Robert McFarlane, Mr Reagan's national security adviser, who has been making a distinction between such weapons and what the Americans regard as defensive systems.

The two sides had also discussed joint research in space exploration to create good will. The last joint venture in space was the Apollo-Soyuz mission of 1975.

MOSCOW: Soviet television said last night that the Geneva talks enabled both sides to clarify each other's positions and would facilitate further dialogue (Reuters reports).

The influential political commentator, Valentin Zorin, said on the main television news that it was still too early to talk about results, but that two observations could already be made.

"The clarification of each side's position is a factor which facilitates the continuation of Soviet-US dialogue," he said in a report from Geneva.

Mr Zorin said the media attention had allowed Moscow to explain its position clearly to the world which was of "paramount political significance".

Although the talks had enabled both sides to put across their views, the position of the US delegation "reflected Washington's policy ideas which make difficult the search for mutually acceptable agreement". Mr Zorin did not elaborate.

He did say, however, that Washington had been under pressure from "powerful US circles" which were against US-Soviet agreement in general.

Letter from Geneva, back page.



Mr Percy Simpson, manager at Kellingley Colliery, North Yorkshire, demonstrating that the pit was back in production yesterday. Report, page 2.

Duffy to defy TUC on ballot funding

By Barrie Clement Labour Reporter

Mr Terry Duffy, the engineering workers' leader, yesterday predicted that an overwhelming majority of his members would vote to take government money for postal ballots and that his executive would therefore go on to defy TUC policy.

Mr Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, warned the TUC General Council that his union would not be dissuaded by threats of suspension or expulsion.

"We hope the TUC will not be so naive as to take disciplinary action against us," he said.

The executive of the union had agreed to meet Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, and Mr Duffy did not want to pre-empt the meeting, but I want to emphasize that the rules of our union must prevail.

A "yes" vote in the ballot of his one million members would be regarded as binding on the leadership whatever Mr Willis said.

Other unions should follow the engineering workers' lead, Mr Duffy said. There had been an exodus from the Labour Party and the trade unions because "we have failed to consult our members".

The engineering union's ballot of its members on taking government money is due to be completed on Friday. The result will be announced at the end of the month. The executive had voted by a majority to recommend acceptance of the cash.

Mr Duffy calculated that the ballot would attract the biggest percentage return for a national vote in the union. The previous highest return was 37 per cent.

He reaffirmed that any disciplinary action taken against the union would increase the long-mooted merger between his union and the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union.

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the electricians, met Mr Willis yesterday after his executive's decision to accept government cash. Mr Hammond refused to comment on the meeting other than to say it had been "cordial".

THE TIMES

1785-1985

Tomorrow

Moral issue
Ronald Butt on the ethical similarities between surrogate motherhood and the Pill for underage girls.

High notes
Profile of Mark Elder, English National Opera's music director.

... high kicks
The altitude problems facing England's World Cup players in Mexico.

Man of letters
James Fenton reviews the letters of Ezra Pound and Dorothy Shakespeare.

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared yesterday between Mr W. Glenn, of Dunstable, N. Ireland, and Mr James Baird, of Glasgow, each received £2,000. Portfolio list, page 14; how to play, back page Information Service.

Tebbit at Commons tomorrow

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, still under hospital treatment for injuries received in the Brighton bombing, will attend his first Cabinet meeting since then tomorrow morning at 10 Downing Street. In the afternoon he will make his first appearance in the Commons, for "question time" since the bomb incident.

Callaghan has operation

Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, has had an operation to remove his gall bladder. A spokesman for his office at Westminster said yesterday that Mr Callaghan, who is 72, was recovering in St Thomas's Hospital, London, after the operation yesterday. He is understood to be comfortable.



Base lost

Cambodia's non-communist guerrillas surrendered their main base at Ampil after a ferocious onslaught by Vietnamese and Phnom Penh forces. Page 7

Horrocks dies

General Sir Brian Horrocks, who commanded the corps that liberated Tunisia in 1943, and presented Men of Action on BBC Television, has died at the age of 89. Obituary, page 12

On this day ...

Today's excerpt from past years' news columns comes from The Times of January 9, 1939, and records General de Gaulle's assumption of power as the first president of the Fifth Republic. Page 11

Leader page 11

Letters: On sterling, from Dr L. H. Palmer, and others; production, from Mr I. Williams; cab trade, from Mr P. J. Warren. Leading articles: Nuclear tests in Australia; Prolonging low life features, pages 9-11. Labour's way out of the arms impasse, by Denis Healey; Popieluszko murder trial embarrassments; a driving lesson for Britain's schools. Spectrum: the Falklands' happier outlook. Wednesday Page: Billie White-law on Beckett. Classified, pages 22-25. La creme de la crime; Property

Home News	2-4	Law Report	12
Overseas	4-7	Parliament	24-25
Arts	12-16	Property	24-25
Business	14-17	Science	26
Chess	6	Sport	18-20
Country	12	TV & Radio	27
Crossword	28	Theatre, etc	27
Diary	18	Weather	28
Events	28	Wills	12

Reagan to switch top aides

From Christopher Thomas Washington

President Reagan announced yesterday that two of his senior aides are switching jobs, in the latest in a series of changes which are being watched carefully by conservatives, who fear that the White House may be undergoing an ideological shift.

Mr James Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, is to switch jobs with Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary. Conservatives will be glad that Mr Baker is being removed from his powerful proximity to the Oval Office. He is regarded as unsympathetic to hard-line conservatism.

Mr Baker is the last of the original cadre of President Reagan's aides to depart. Although not the closest man to the President, he has nevertheless been one of the privileged "big three" insiders for the past four years.

The others are Mr Michael Deaver, Deputy White House Chief of Staff, who is leaving for a private career in public relations, and Mr Edwin Meese, the White House Counsellor, who has been nominated Attorney-General.

Mr Reagan, announcing the moves, said each man was looking for new challenges and after four gruelling years... their desire for change is perfectly understandable.

Mr Baker will face the onerous task of tackling the budget deficit, the overriding political issue.

Among his new duties, Mr Regan will be in charge of a White House staff of about 600, as well as policy, legislation and press relations. Biographies, page 5

2,500 British jobs axed by Michelin

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Shop stewards at the Stoke-on-Trent factory of the French-owned Michelin tyre company will meet today to discuss the announcement yesterday that 2,500 British jobs are to go.

Workers, union officials and local MPs were shocked by the company's decision, but Michelin said that in the face of fierce Eastern European and Japanese competition it has been losing £2 million a month in Britain.

About 2,400 of the job losses will be at the Stoke plants, with the rest at Burnley where rubber production will cease. Michelin said that it would concentrate tyre production at the group's three most modern factories at Burnley, Dundee, and at Ballymena in Northern Ireland.

Mr Thomas Ferguson, head of Michelin's UK manufacturing organization, said that the company had lost more than £70 million in the two-and-a-half years to the end of June. The job losses were "tragic", but were an economic necessity and without them another 6,300 would be at risk.

Industry's decline, page 2

Excellent progress by Princess

By Alan Hamilton

Princess Margaret was said yesterday to be making excellent progress at Brompton Hospital, after an operation on Sunday to remove a small part of her left lung.

A hospital spokesman said it was not expected that any further bulletins would be issued on the Princess's condition, although it was not known when she would leave for home.

The Queen and the Queen Mother are being kept informed on the Princess's condition, but there are no plans for them to break their holiday at Sandringham to see her.

The Princess's children, Lord Uxley and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, have returned from a holiday in Venice to visit their mother.

Electricity stations meet record demand

By David Young Energy Correspondent

Energy stations last night produced more electricity than ever before, despite disruption to coal supplies during the 10-month miners' strike.

The record output was needed to meet the highest demand ever placed on the national grid.

A combination of the severe weather in the East and South-east, plus an increase in industrial demand, which has been gathering pace in the past three months, sent power demand to a peak of 45,046 megawatts at 5.01pm and an average of 44,600 megawatts between 4.30pm and 5pm.

The previous record average demand was 44,225 megawatts at 5pm on January 14, 1980.

The Central Electricity Generating Board's ability to meet this demand 10 months into a national miners' strike is being seen by Government officials as a clear indication that electricity output can be kept up without power station coal stocks becoming dangerously low.

The 1980 peak was achieved when the CEBG had 132 operational power stations compared with 86 now.

Sir Walter Marshall, the board's chairman, said that predictions for demand coupled with the colder weather meant that engineers were able to calculate that last night's demand would be a record. He said: "We were able to meet the demand without difficulty."

The increase in industrial demand being seen as factories, shops and offices return to full working after the holidays is being interpreted as a sign of an improvement in the economy.

Power demand dropped after the winter of 1980 but for the past two years has been showing a slow rise. Demand by industry in the third quarter of last year rose and overall consumption in the summer increased by 3.4 per cent.

The CEBG knew yesterday morning that it was heading for a peak demand at 5pm when consumption by industry and commerce overlapped with the peak period for domestic demand.

Demand yesterday morning at 4.10pm megawatts was a morning record as industry switched on after the holidays and breakfasts were cooked.

Last night's peak demand was met by Midlands stations burning coal delivered each day from the Nottingham coalfield and by several other large coal-fired stations.

Rail strike threat on January 17

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

All railway services outside Southern Region could be halted on Thursday, January 17 because of a one-day strike planned by the two main railway unions, Aslef and the National Union of Railwaymen.

The decision to strike has been taken to show increased support for the striking miners. Another 460 miners abandoned the pit strike yesterday, a sharp fall on the previous day's tally, and top-level Labour figures called on the Government and the National Coal Board to restart the peace process to end the 10-month-old conflict.

But the appeals fell on deaf ears and Mr John Gummer, the chairman of the Conservative Party, returned to the offensive, urging striking pitmen to "refuse to be intimidated by Scargill the Godfather".

NCB managers privately expressed satisfaction at the number of men going back, even though it was little more than a third of the 1,203 figure of returnees recorded on Monday. Coal production restarted at Britain's biggest colliery, Kellingley in North Yorkshire, and only small numbers of returnees are required to start coal cutting at other mines, the board says.

However, Mr Stanley Orme, Labour's front-bench spokesman on energy, warned the Government that it was "going up a blind alley" by relying on the drift back. The strike would not be broken by "bribes and urging people to return to work."

After visiting the picket line at closure-threatened Cononwood Colliery, in south Yorkshire where the strike began last March, the shadow minister said: "The fact is that people are going to remain out, the industry is at a virtual standstill, and talks should be resumed at the earliest opportunity."

Unless there was a negotiated settlement, the dispute could go on throughout 1985 and even into 1986, he predicted. "It would be a tragedy not only for the people in the industry and the mining communities but also for the British economy." It was costing Britain £86 million a week.

His call for a resumption of talks was echoed by Mr David Bassett, chairman of the TUC's influential economic committee, who insisted: "It must now be quite clear to the NCB and even government ministers that their tactics of refusing to negotiate and of attempting to bribe miners back to work has failed."

The board, however, is in no hurry to resume talks with the NUM. Benefit test case, page 2

Early rate rise fears subside

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

Good money supply figures have headed off an immediate rise in base lending rates by the high street banks. The Bank of England announced a fall of one-half per cent in the sterling M3 measure of money in December, better than had generally been expected.

Oil prices on the European spot markets continued to move upwards because of the cold weather. North Sea Brent crude for delivery this month rising 35 cents to \$26.65 a barrel. This helped the pound to gain half a cent against the dollar at \$1.1495.

The stock market breathed a huge sigh of relief after the publication of the money supply figures, shares rising in late trading and the FT-30 share index closing 15.5 points up at a new high of 971.2.

The money figures had been regarded as a possible trigger for a base rate rise. The one-half per cent fall in the money supply pressure for an early rise in interest rates, with money market rates dropping sharply. The three-month interbank rate closed just above 10 per cent, down ½ day, and not out of line with the banks' base rates of 9.5-9.75 per cent.

City analysts, however, are worried about the strength of bank lending, £1.5 billion in the banking month of December, and some suggested that a rise in base rates had simply been postponed, with a rise to between 10 per cent and 10.5 per cent still possible in the next few weeks.

After the money supply announcement, the pound lost ground, having traded at \$1.1565 yesterday morning. Later in New York, the pound fell to \$1.1375.

Kenneth Fleet, page 15
Shares soar, page 15

Baby made ward of High Court

The baby born last week to Britain's first commercial surrogate mother, was yesterday made a ward of the High Court.

A spokesman for the Bar Council, which was last Friday granted a "place of safety" order on the baby within hours of its birth, said last night that all decisions on its future would be made by the High Court "which has taken on responsibility in this matter."

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Do not squander tax cuts on the better off, Hattersley tells ministers

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor, argued yesterday that the Government would have the resources in the next Budget to take the lower paid out of tax and to spend more on public investment so as to reduce unemployment, provided that resources were not squandered on higher-rate taxpayers.

Speaking at St Albans, Hertfordshire, he said that the Government had begun a campaign to convince the country that a choice had to be made between direct job creation through public investment and a reduction in the rate of income tax, yet that was untrue.

He also denied the contention of ministers that tax cuts created more jobs than public investment and that the import content of consumption was lower than that of investment.

Mr Hattersley wrote last week to the Prime Minister asking for documentary evidence of his claim, in the form of a Treasury paper, in which the existence was reported in *The Sunday Times*. Mrs Margaret Thatcher replied on Monday that no such paper existed.

Yesterday Mr Hattersley accused Mrs Thatcher of deceit and of falsifying the evidence. He said that independent research institutes had found

that public expenditure created more jobs than tax cuts.

He said that summary tables published by the Department of Trade and Industry, on which he assumed ministers had drawn, put the import content of consumption at 20 per cent and of investment at 30 per cent.

But the breakdown showed that the construction industry attracted only 15 per cent import content. Against that, electrical consumer goods and man-made fibres, which would attract a large part of increased consumer spending, included import content of 42 per cent and 39 per cent.

Tax cuts therefore were much more likely to stimulate jobs abroad at the expense of British industry than were increases in public capital programmes.

Mr Hattersley said it was right to remove low-paid workers from tax, but to do so by increasing personal allowances also provided large cuts for those on high incomes who had benefited considerably from government policy.

"If the Government cares at all about unemployment it does not care enough to make a reduction its first priority."

"If it chose to confine its tax cuts to the families which really need them it could begin the

investment in new jobs, and stay within its overall economic guidelines."

On the same theme of unemployment, which Mr Hattersley said would dominate debate until the next election, Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, appealed yesterday to Conservative doubters to work with the Alliance parties to force the Government to change direction.

He wrote letters to about seventy-five selected Conservative backbench MPs, which should be on their desks when they return to the Commons today from the Christmas recess, noting that they were among those who had demonstrated independence from the Government's line.

Mr Steel wrote that the unemployment question would come to a head over the question of whether in his Budget the Chancellor made a start on a capital programme to renew the infrastructure or gave away money in tax cuts.

Those MPs who saw a positive role for public investment in generating recovery and employment represented a majority of voters, he said. They should use every parliamentary opportunity and work together.

Incomes crisis will worsen, farmers told

From John Young, Agriculture Correspondent, Oxford

A permanent and deepening crisis in farm incomes seems inevitable, Mr David Curry, a member of the European Parliament for Essex North East, told the Oxford Farming Conference yesterday.

His warning reflected the meeting's sombre mood. He said that the EEC had to pursue production restraints, it would prefer to do so by quantitative control rather than by relying exclusively on market forces.

For countries such as West Germany, France, Italy and the Irish Republic reliance on price restraints would wipe off the map a whole sector of small producers. Dairy quotas did preserve the smaller farm.

The British thought that the problem with the common agricultural policy was that an essentially economic policy had been subverted for social reasons. It was only now, perhaps, when faced with the question of whether we wanted an industry and a countryside which had one farmer every 2,000 acres, and when we had to tackle the social implications of milk quotas, that we understood the essential function of the CAP as seen from the continent.

If grain prices were allowed to fall without quota restrictions, it would be an open invitation to farmers to plough "all the way up to the white line in the middle of the road," to maximize production. He added that alternative ways of escape might be diversification into forestry and so-called energy crops, a switch to lower input methods, using fewer fertilizers and pesticides, or a different concept of supporting the countryside. Why just support the farmer and not the garage mechanic, village postmistress, school-teacher and shopkeeper?

● Dairy farmers are to lobby MPs at Westminster tomorrow, the day that the Government's Milk (Cessation of Production) Bill goes before Parliament. They are seeking an extension of the scheme to allow more farmers to give up milk production.

The Ministry of Agriculture yesterday published a discussion document on possible ways of allowing milk quotas to be transferred from one farmer to another, but such a scheme would require EEC approval.

● Figures released by the Ministry of Agriculture show a further sharp fall in average farmland prices from £3,994 a hectare last October to £3,795 in November.

Barratt closes branches

Barratt Developments, Britain's biggest householder, is to close offices in Scotland, north-west and north-east England, East Anglia and London with the probable loss of more than 100 jobs.

Mr Bob James, group finance director, yesterday blamed the decline in new house starts and the general economic situation. He said the closures were

necessary "to get overheads in line with anticipated throughput." They would not affect site staff, only those based in offices.

Last year Barratt built about 13,500 houses and flats nationally, which was "significantly" down on the 1983 total of about 16,000. Mr James said it was "too early to tell" what this year's figures would be like.

FT on brink of stoppage

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Informal contacts this week between management and printworkers' leaders at the *Financial Times* have failed to settle a dispute which looks set to halt production of the paper tonight.

Negotiators for National Graphical Association machine managers at the newspaper have rejected a "final offer" from the company and it is expected that machine assistants belonging to Sogat '83 will follow suit today.

The NGA has been offered a £37-a-week rise with the promise of one extra job each night for their 25 members in the machine room. The 78 Sogat members have been offered an extra £32.38 a week, and two extra men.

The association has said that it will refuse to produce an enlarged 44-page *Financial Times* tonight until their pay and manning claim is settled. Management it is thought, will

suspend the printworkers if they carry out their threat.

The company argues that the production of editions over the normal 40 pages is covered by agreement. Mr Frank Barlow, chief executive of the FT, said last night: "We expect people to honour agreements, just as we honour ours." He added: "The situation is serious. It could not be more serious."

No talks took place yesterday and no talks are planned today, although some observers believe that the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service may be called in, either before the dispute starts or after a few days' publication is lost.

● One in three of the 5,000 NGA members on national newspapers attended a disruptive mandatory meeting last night in protest against a 5 per cent pay offer from the Newspaper Publishers Association.

Minister in surrogacy talks

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Opposition leaders are to meet Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health next week to try to agree a bill to outlaw commercial surrogate motherhood, but leave "surrogacy for love" arrangements within the law.

Mr Frank Dobson, Labour's health spokesman, who is to meet Mr Clarke, said he too believed "it would be impossible to attempt by law to prevent surrogacy for love."

There was no party difference, he said, over the need to ban commercial surrogate motherhood agencies, but he said precisely how that was to be done would require careful thought.

The Warnock committee recommended making both commercial and non-profit making agencies illegal and making doctors and others criminally liable if they knowingly assisted in creating a surrogate pregnancy.

Lady Warnock has said the committee settled on that course because it could not devise a way of allowing non-commercial agencies to exist without allowing commercial arrangements to slip through the net.

Ministers are likely to face formidable difficulties in drafting a short Bill that will effectively catch commercial arrangements but leave surrogacy between sisters or close friends inside the law.

One possibility is to ban any form of advertising by potential parents or surrogate mothers, as well as the payment of fees. Mr Clarke said ministers would be meeting urgently to consider a timetable for legislation.

Striking miner loses benefit test case 'Big K' starts work

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A striking miner has lost a key test case over the payment of Family Income Supplement that would have entitled thousands of striking miners' with working wives to backdated benefit.

The Social Security Commissioners have overturned a tribunal ruling that Mr Geoff Lowe, a Staffordshire miner aged 38, was entitled to the payment, worth up to £23 a week, and more for large families.

But the Stoke-on-Trent branch of the Citizens' Advice Bureau, which backed Mr Lowe's case, said yesterday that it hoped to raise the money to take the issue to the High Court.

Under Family Income Supplement rules, families where a husband or wife is in full time work but have an income below £30 a week are entitled to the benefit, which is assessed on "normal" income for the previous five weeks.

The Department of Health and Social Security has been arguing that the "normal" income of the families of striking miners should be assessed on the five weeks prior to the start of the overtime ban in November 1983. In August, however, a social security tribunal ruled in Mr Lowe's favour that his income in the weeks prior to his claim should be used - a time when his income was nil, but his wife was earning £51 a week.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, appealed against that and the Social Security Commissioners have upheld that appeal.

Mr Mike Wolfe, of the Stoke Citizens' Advice Bureau, said that the judgement appeared to contain several "serious inconsistencies". At least 2,500 striking miners' families are believed to have claimed Family Income Supplement during the dispute.

From Peter Davenport, Kellingley Colliery

The colliery manager called it a fantastic day, the rebirth of the coal industry in Yorkshire. The pickets bunched inside a ramshackle shelter at the pit gates dismissed the event as propaganda aimed at demoralizing their spirits.

A resumption of production at Kellingley colliery, "Big K" as the largest pit in the country is known within the industry, drew widely differing emotions from the two sides in the coal strike yesterday.

In the propaganda war, into which the dispute has now largely dissolved, with the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers firing off conflicting statistics, it was the board that gleaned most satisfaction from the first lumps of coal wound up from the pit bottom in 10 months.

It was in fact the fourth colliery in the Yorkshire coalfield to resume production, but

in the words of one board official involved in yesterday's public relations exercise, "this was the one we have been waiting for".

Of the other pits in production, Manton, near Worsley, is geographically in Nottinghamshire, and Wistow and Kicall are in the still fully developed Selby coalfield.

Kellingley however, is in the heart of the coalfield, and the board hopes that production there will prove to be another psychological lever in persuading more of the 50,000 Yorkshire miners still on strike to join the 3,406 of their colleagues who went to work yesterday.

Yesterday, just 166 of Kellingley's 1,900 miners were reported to have abandoned the strike - that figure was disputed by the NUM - and the coal cut by the 75 men who went underground on the day shift amounted to a tiny fraction of normal daily production.

Prince goes back to Falklands

By Our Defence Correspondent

Prince Andrew is going back to the Falkland Islands where he served as a helicopter pilot in the 1982 war with Argentina.

On Monday two frigates will sail from Britain, to relieve three ships at present patrolling the seas around the Falkland Islands. The Prince will be aboard one of the frigates, HMS Brazeal.

For most of the period since the conflict there have been four frigates or destroyers and at least one submarine around the Falklands. The number of frigates was reduced by one during the course of last year, and the decision to cut the number to two seems to have been taken just before Christmas.

Charity chief seeks Labour seat

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Mr George Galloway, general secretary of War on Want, last night announced that he had been nominated to run for selection as Labour parliamentary candidate in Dumbarion.

The sitting Labour MP, Mr Ian Campbell, has already announced his intention to retire at the next election and the constituency party is advertising for nominations for the succession. They close on February 18 and selection is to be held on March 15.

Mr Galloway said that he was a Transport and General Workers' Union official nominee, and was quietly confident that he would be selected.

Asked whether selection would affect his job as general secretary of a large charity, he said: "It shouldn't at all. I think plenty of heads of charities

have been parliamentary candidates."

Mr Galloway, who is aged 30, was Scotland's youngest Labour chairman and he is expected to be faced with two main challengers for Dumbarion, which Labour held with a 4.9 per cent majority in the 1983 general election.

The other two main contenders are thought to be Mr Ian Leitch, a local councillor and prominent peace campaigner, and Mr John McCall, a local teacher who is being nominated by the Co-operative group.

Dumbarion is one of about 30 constituencies which have already launched the process to find candidates for Labour constituencies at the next election

Mr McDonald, the MP for Thurrock, is expected to be the first Labour member to be re-elected, with her selection conference fixed for February 4.

Another early reselection will be that of Mr Dennis Skinner, the fourth MP for Bolsover. A number of constituencies in the present batch of selections have already been told that the sitting MP is not standing again. They include Gateshead East, where nominations close on January 29; Glasgow Rutherglen, February 4; East Kilbride, February 5; and Fife Central, February 19.

In Wolverhampton South East, the sitting MP, Mr Robert Edwards, is expected to announce his impending retirement next on his 80th birthday next Wednesday. Nominations close there on February 22.

Dispute in prisons settled 'for £17m'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Prison officers said yesterday that the Government is to pay them about £17 million in settlement of a dispute that led to the Army being called in and emergency powers being granted by Parliament.

Prisoners were housed in police cells in an unfinished new prison, manned with the help of the Army, and in Kellistown Camp on Salisbury Plain during industrial action by prison officers in 1980-81.

The action was over payment for meal breaks. The deal disclosed yesterday between the Prison Officers' Association and the Prison Department gives payment for disputed meal breaks back-dated to 1981. It could mean between £1,500 and £2,000 in the pockets of some officers, they say.

A similar, but separate, dispute involving Liverpool officers and going back to 1971, has also been settled, total retrospective payments for them are not expected to be much different.

The POA says that the issue was whether meal breaks should be treated as duty for payment purposes. In half the service they were, in half, they were not.

The Home Office has estimated that the cost of retrospective payments would be about £17 million, the POA says, and there is no reason to believe the figure is inaccurate, but the final total has yet to be worked out on the basis of local information.

The POA says that the Prison Department will have all night duty covered from within basic hours, which is not the case at present.

The industrial action began when Mr William Whitehead, then Home Secretary, refused to agree to arbitration.

As a result of the settlement, the POA has officially notified the Prison Department that the dispute of 1980-81 is at an end.

Man faces police death prosecution

An inquest was told yesterday that a 19-year-old man, said: "Oh, my God, I am sorry" when told that two men who pursued him in a high-speed car chase, were plain clothes police officers and that both had been killed.

A barman, Mr Roger Giles, of Portlough, near Bristol, told Sergeant John Quinn that he had thought the men, who were in an unmarked police car, were thugs.

Sergeant Quinn told the Bristol coroner, Mr Donald Hawkins, that Mr Giles had been warned that he had been reported for allegedly causing death by reckless driving.

Mr Hawkins recorded verdicts of accidental death.

Doctors asked to accept review of prescribing

By our Social Services Correspondent

Family doctors are being asked if they will agree to their colleagues' reviewing their prescribing to reduce the National Health Service drug bill and to ensure that they are prescribing responsibly.

In his letter, Dr Irvine said the college's council backed the British Medical Association's opposition to the Government's plans, which would mean that some important drugs would be available only to those who could afford to pay. A national list could respond only slowly to changes in clinical practice and new drugs and would seriously interfere with doctors' clinical freedom.

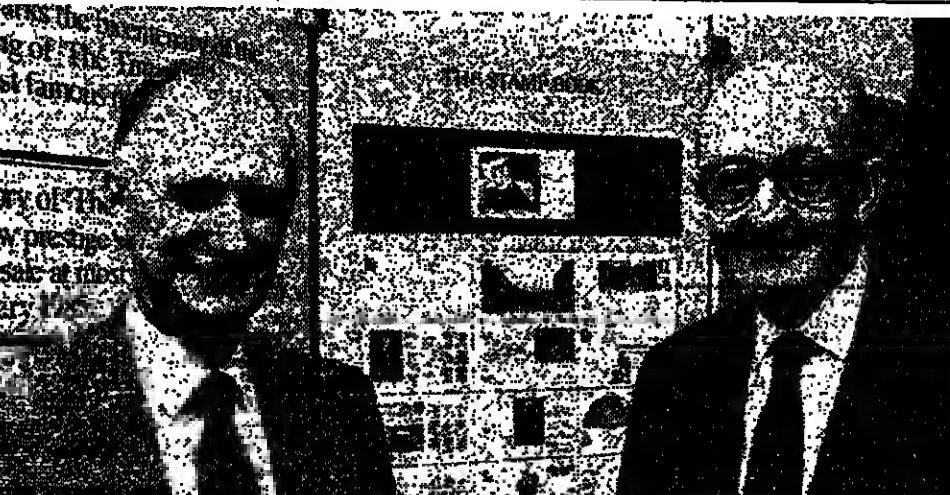
The Royal College of General Practitioners has written to its 12,900 members among the 29,000 family doctors asking if they would agree to such a proposal.

The move potentially could produce considerably greater savings than the Government's proposed £100 million saving from introducing a limited list of health service drugs. Dr Donald Irvine, chairman of the college's council, said yesterday.

Unlike the Government's plans, which bar patients from receiving blacklisted drugs unless they paid for them, the system would be flexible, ensuring that patients' needs were met, he said.

In his letter, Dr Irvine said the college's council backed the British Medical Association's opposition to the Government's plans, which would mean that some important drugs would be available only to those who could afford to pay. A national list could respond only slowly to changes in clinical practice and new drugs and would seriously interfere with doctors' clinical freedom.

Family doctors, however, could draw up local prescribing policies in the same way as many hospitals now run limited lists, once they are given detailed information on their prescribing by the Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA).



Stamp of approval: Sir Ronald Deearing (left), chairman of the Post Office, and Sir Edward Pickering, executive vice-chairman of Times Newspapers, marking the publication yesterday of *The Times* Bicentenary stamp book. The book, designed by David Driver, the paper's head of design, and with a text by the literary editor, Philip Howard, recounting the history of *The Times*, went on sale at post office yesterday, priced at £5, the face value of the stamps it contains. (Photograph: John Voos).

Pipe Band at air route hearing

A Highland pipe band stopped traffic in Central London yesterday at the start of the Civil Aviation Authority hearing into the proposed launch of a new £40 million airline.

Mr Randolph Fields is seeking a licence for Highland Express Airline to run a transatlantic service based at Prestwick.

If granted, Mr Fields proposes to charge £89 stand-by from the Scottish airport to New York or Toronto.

A co-founder of the cheap flights airline, Virgin Atlantic, Mr Fields left last year to set up Highland. He expects the service to start in June, if given approval.

The hearing is expected to last until tomorrow.

Hospital fire

Patients were moved out of the Old Manor psychiatric hospital at Salisbury, Wiltshire yesterday after fire broke out in a ground floor room.

Radial blow decisive to tyre industry

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The latest round of redundancies announced yesterday by Michelin has again highlighted the sorry state of the British tyre industry. It is a classic story of decline caused by low competitiveness, plummeting demand and cheap imports.

On top of that has come the growing use of the radial tyre, developed by the industry to meet the clamour for long-lasting and safer tyres. Ironically for the tyre makers, it has contributed enormously to their structural decline.

In 1973, the British tyre industry employed 50,000 people. By 1980 that had fallen to 34,000 and three years later the workforce was down to 21,000. Last year just 16,000 people were making tyres in Britain and from that figure must now be subtracted another 2,500.

Tyre making has proved to be, along with other traditional manufacturing sectors, unable to withstand the economic and commercial pressures of recent years. It has been a victim of the

run-down of vehicle manufacture.

A decade ago, Britain made 1,500,000 cars; last year the total was under a million with the main sellers such as Ford and Vauxhall importing about half of their cars from other European factories. Similarly, truck output in 1974 was 400,000 units; last year's figure was about 230,000.

The resulting impact on the tyre factories has been significant. Since 1979, Dunlop has closed factories at Speke, Liverpool, at Inchinnan in Scotland, and Cork in the Irish Republic. Goodyear shut its Glasgow works, and Firestone stopped tyre production in the UK.

A big shock came when Michelin announced just before Christmas in 1982 that 4,000 of its 12,000 British workers would be dismissed over the three-year period, most of them at the Mallusk plant in Belfast.

Dunlop, perhaps, one of Britain's most famous manufacturing names, has been at the brink of collapse and last summer sold its European tyre

interests to the Sumitomo company of Japan. About 500 of the 3,300 jobs at the plants in Washington, Tyne and Wear and in Birmingham are threatened.

The British industry comprises six manufacturers: Avon, Goodyear, Sumitomo, Michelin, Pirelli and Uniroyal England. In 1983 they made 21.7 million car and van tyres and 2.3 million truck tyres.

The British Rubber Manufacturers' Association refuses to disclose import figures or market shares, but it is clear from sales figures that imports have captured a big slice of the home market. In 1983, sales were 25.8 million car tyres, of which 11.8 million were classed as replacement or export tyres.

The British industry is not alone in Europe in being forced to reduce capacity, but it appears to have suffered the most. Between 1977 and 1981 European tyre output was cut by 97,000 tyres a day, equal to 11 per cent of capacity, much of it in Britain.

One leading company said last night: "The output of all the

existing United Kingdom tyre plants could easily be taken up by the other European producers, and in fact only two or three of the major manufacturers could satisfy demand."

While low productivity in Britain is partly responsible for the industry's decline, much of the blame is also laid at the doors of countries such as South Korea, Taiwan, Hungary, Poland and even Japan for selling cheap and in some cases allegedly dumped products of inferior quality.

The one bright spot in the fiercely competitive tyre market in Britain was provided a year ago by Pirelli which, after experiencing a 25 per cent improvement in productivity at its British plants, said it had boosted investment in tyre making to £25 million during the past four years.

The Times overseas selling prices: £2.95, £3.00, £3.05, £3.10, £3.15, £3.20, £3.25, £3.30, £3.35, £3.40, £3.45, £3.50, £3.55, £3.60, £3.65, £3.70, £3.75, £3.80, £3.85, £3.90, £3.95, £4.00, £4.05, £4.10, £4.15, £4.20, £4.25, £4.30, £4.35, £4.40, £4.45, £4.50, £4.55, £4.60, £4.65, £4.70, £4.75, £4.80, £4.85, £4.90, £4.95, £5.00, £5.05, £5.10, £5.15, £5.20, £5.25, £5.30, £5.35, £5.40, £5.45, £5.50, £5.55, £5.60, £5.65, £5.70, £5.75, £5.80, £5.85, £5.90, £5.95, £6.00, £6.05, £6.10, £6.15, £6.20, £6.25, £6.30, £6.35, £6.40, £6.45, £6.50, £6.55, £6.60, £6.65, £6.70, £6.75, £6.80, £6.85, £6.90, £6.95, £7.00, £7.05, £7.10, £7.15, £7.20, £7.25, £7.30, £7.35, £7.40, £7.45, £7.50, £7.55, £7.60, £7.65, £7.70, £7.75, £7.80, £7.85, £7.90, £7.95, £8.00, £8.05, £8.10, £8.15, £8.20, £8.25, £8.30, £8.35, £8.40, £8.45, £8.50, £8.55, £8.60, £8.65, £8.70, £8.75, £8.80, £8.85, £8.90, £8.95, £9.00, £9.05, £9.10, £9.15, £9.20, £9.25, £9.30, £9.35, £9.40, £9.45, £9.50, £9.55, £9.60, £9.65, £9.70, £9.75, £9.80, £9.85, £9.90, £9.95, £10.00, £10.05, £10.10, £10.15, £10.20, £10.25, £10.30, £10.35, £10.40, £10.45, £10.50, £10.55, £10.60, £10.65, £10.70, £10.75, £10.80, £10.85, £10.90, £10.95, £11.00, £11.05, £11.10, £11.15, £11.20, £11.25, £11.30, £11.35, £11.40, £11.45, £11.50, £11.55, £11.60, £11.65, £11.70, £11.75, £11.80, £11.85, £11.90, £11.95, £12.00, £12.05, £12.10, £12.15, £12.20, £12.25, £12.30, £12.35, £12.40, £12.45, £12.50, £12.55, £12.60, £12.65, £12.70, £12.75, £12.80, £12.85, £12.90, £12.95, £13.00, £13.05, £13.10, £13.15, £13.20, £13.25, £13.30, £13.35, £13.40, £13.45, £13.50, £13.55, £13.60, £13.65, £13.70, £13.75, £13.80, £13.85, £13.90, £13.95, £14.00, £14.05, £14.10, £14.15, £14.20, £14.25, £14.30, £14.35, £14.40, £14.45, £14.50, £14.55, £14.60, £14.65, £14.70, £14.75, £14.80, £14.85, £14.90, £14.95, £15.00, £15.05, £15.10, £15.15, £15.20, £15.25, £15.30, £15.35, £15.40, £15.45, £15.50, £15.55, £15.60, £15.65, £15.70, £15.75, £15.80, £15.85, £15.90, £15.95, £16.00, £16.05, £16.10, £16.15, £16.20, £16.25, £16.30, £16.35, £16.40, £16.45, £16.50, £16.55, £16.60, £16.65, £16.70, £16.75, £16.80, £16.85, £16.90, £16.95, £17.00, £17.05, £17.10, £17.15, £17.20, £17.25, £17.30

Decision to stop treating kidney patient taken 'on medical grounds'

By Colin Hughes

Oxfordshire District Health Authority defended yesterday its decision to stop giving life-saving dialysis treatment to a kidney patient aged 44, saying it had been taken purely on medical grounds.

Health ministers, however, have asked the regional health authority for a report on the case of Mr Derek Sage, who has lived for eight years at Simon House, an Oxford hostel for single homeless men.

The British Kidney Patients Association and Mr Lewis Carter-Jones, Labour MP for Evesham, have called for an independent inquiry into the issue of allowing some kidney patients to die because doctors believe it is not worth keeping them alive.

Mr Christopher Paine, the health authority's district manager, dismissed claims that Mr Sage's treatment had been cut off after two years because he was "dirty and difficult". He said: "He would have died within weeks or months from his hypertension. I suppose you could say that discontinuing his treatment is letting nature take its course."

Rejecting suggestions that Oxford was practising "passive euthanasia", Mr Paine said that, since an operation for a brain

tumour two years ago, Mr Sage's mental condition had deteriorated.

"He will not take his tablets to keep his blood pressure down. Possibly if he had come from a better background and stable home he would still be treated."

He said the decision to stop treating Mr Sage, who was retired from his job as a maintenance engineer at Harwell atomic energy research station eight years ago because of ill health, had been taken by all the senior doctors and nurses and a social worker at the Churchill hospital in Oxford.

Oxford's provision for kidney dialysis is higher than the national average and the authority is unusual in having a policy of continuing to treat patients who have a high risk of dying, Mr Paine said. In this case, however, doctors had decided on medical grounds that treatment should end.

Mr Sage is now staying at the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth in north London after the British Kidney Patients Association offered to pay £400 a week to keep him alive.

He is unaware of the controversy surrounding him. He is feeling well and said yesterday he is "happy to be here".

Mr Stuart Twaddell, director of the hospital, said they would consider training staff at Simon House in Oxford to treat him on a home dialysis machine.

Mr Carter-Jones said Oxfordshire's statement made the situation worse.

"If it is true that Mr Sage will die in a few weeks or months why couldn't they go on treating him for that short time? It is a cold-blooded decision which sets dangerous precedents. We cannot ask doctors to play God like this."

Mrs Elizabeth Ward, president of the kidney patients' association, said: "You cannot say this man's life is more valuable or worthwhile than another man's life. Can you imagine what this terrible case must mean to dialysis patients?"

Mr John Patten, Under Secretary of State for Health, told the House of Commons last month that the National Health Service provides places for 33 people in a million to have dialysis compared with 22 a million five years ago. The Government intends to increase provision to 40 places a million by 1987.

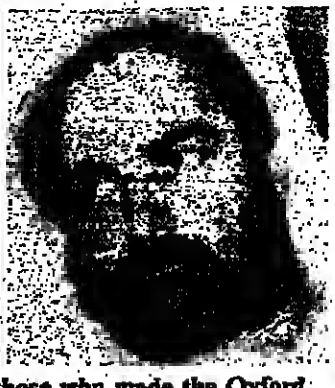
Even if the Government reaches its 1987 target, provision in Britain will still be among the lowest in Europe. In the United States, nearly 90 places a million are provided, but that is because it has a large population of black people who more frequently suffer from renal failure.

The provision of new renal dialysis places per million of population in other European countries is as follows: Belgium, 61; Spain, 61; West Germany, 56; Austria, 54; Norway, 54; Netherlands, 46; Italy, 46; France, 44; Portugal, 40; Greece, 40; East Germany, 28; Bulgaria, 28.

Leading article, page 11



Dr Des Oliver (left), one of those who made the Oxford decision, and Mr Sage.



Eight primary-age schoolchildren are back in the old routine on Bryher Island in the Isles of Scilly. They have started the new school term in the same way as they finished the last: by boat.

There is no school on the island, population 60, and in oilskins, sea

boots and lifejackets, they cross the channel to Treco near by for their schooling.

Recently an island council's move to get the school on Bryher reopened foundered. Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science ruled that the benefits of the larger school outweighed a reopening.

He also spoke of "unnecessary expenditure".

So the eight "boat children" ranging in ages from four and a half to 10 have morning school assembly on the beach or quay at 8.15am while waiting to be picked up by launch and taken on a five-minute crossing over the often wild stretch of water to their school.

Reward of £10,000 to find killer

By Our Crime reporter

A reward of £10,000 was offered yesterday by the family of Mr Aristos Constantinos, the Greek-Cypriot businessman shot dead in his Hampstead home, in London, on New Year's morning.

The reward is being offered for the arrest and conviction of anyone connected with the incident in which up to £50,000 was stolen. Mr Constantinos was shot seven times.

The police have also disclosed that during the weeks before the robbery the house had received a number of telephone calls and the caller rang off without giving any identity.

Sales battle opens for radio phones

The battle for radio telephone customers begins in earnest today when British Telecom and its partner Securicor launch their service to compete with the one started by Racal-Vodafone at the beginning of the year.

At first sight the cost of £1200-£1500 for the radio phone and a monthly charge of about £50 to £60 would appear to be prohibitive.

The battle between the British Telecom/Securicor network, named Cellnet, and that of the Racal project will rage in the high street. The retail chain of Dixons and the Automobile Association, which will both promote the Racal network, will ensure British Telecom gets competition.

British Telecom have 11 accredited Cellnet retailers, including AirCall and Motorola. These two networks are expected to serve about 80 per cent of the British population within the next 18 months. By then Vodafone will have reached Birmingham, Nottingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Swansea and Plymouth on its network. The Cellnet programme is similar.

By April it will have extended from London to the Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and industrial Yorkshire, Reading, Swindon, Bristol and the M1 motorway north of Leicester will follow in June with central Scotland covered by September.

Former mill is AA's inn of year

Mr Harry Thomas and his wife Angela gave up steady jobs as a hotel manager and school teacher respectively five years ago to sink their savings into improving an isolated Cornish public house. Yesterday the stone-built millhouse at Trebarwith on the north Cornish coast near Tintagel was named by the Automobile Association as its Inn of the Year.

Regional winners are: South-east, the Harrow Inn, Warren Street, near Maidstone, Kent; Midlands, The White Bear, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire; Wales, the Sloop Inn, Llandogo Gwent; North, Three Shires Inn, Little Langdale, Cumbria.

NF student enters polytechnic library

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Hundreds of students jostled Mr Patrick Harrington, a member of the National Front, yesterday but allowed him to enter the library at the Polytechnic of North London after the acting director had asked them to let him through.

Mr Harrington, aged 29, a philosophy student, who is the National Front's legal adviser, was escorted into the building by Dr John Beishon, director of South Bank polytechnic who has been sent to the north London college to sort out its troubles.

Dr Beishon had just addressed the students for the first time, at the beginning of the new term. He asked them to obey the law.

He also said that he would try to ensure, through the Open University, that any student sent to prison for contempt of court would be able to continue his education.

Mr Harrington spent about 20 minutes in the library. After showing his identity card, he borrowed two books, read them for about two minutes and moved to the microfilm machine. He made some notes, checked out his two books and left the building. He and his solicitor had a meeting with Dr Beishon at 4.30 pm.

Dr Beishon's plan to settle the dispute, which involves moving Mr Harrington's lectures from the main polytechnic buildings on the understanding that students will refrain from picketing, is expected to be approved by the students when they meet at an emergency meeting tomorrow.

Fire death

Stephen Hood, aged seven, rescued from a fire in Ash Grove, Shirebrook, Derbyshire on Monday died yesterday. His brother Barry, aged nine and sister Karen, aged three, are still in Nottingham City Hospital.

100 apply to be head of Dartington

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

About a hundred applications have been received for the post of head of Dartington Hall School in Devon, the progressive coeducational school which was in the news when a former head teacher resigned after pictures of his wife and himself appeared in the press.

Applications for the job of reuniting the school have come from all over the world, including Australia, Canada and Saudi Arabia, a school official said.

The successful applicant will replace the present joint head teachers, Mr Roger Tilbury and Mr Eric Adams, who took over after Dr Lyn Blackshaw, the previous head, resigned in September 1983. Mr Tilbury is on a year's sabbatical leave and Mr Adams will stand down.

The trouble began in the summer of 1983 when Dr Blackshaw wrote to parents telling them of under-age sexual intercourse, burglary, vandalism and drug-taking at the school. A court case followed in which seven young people admitted a total of 28 offences, involving £1,435 in money and property.

Rabbi was half of Jewish cabaret act

By Sheila Beardsall

A rabbi used sermons and biblical references to make personal digs at members of his synagogue, he also offended them by wearing T-shirts and was once seen eating a ham sandwich at a wedding reception, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

During the second day of the hearing into Rabbi Clifford Cohen's claim that he was unfairly dismissed from Southgate Progressive Synagogue, north London, two of his close personal friends talked about the rabbi's attitude to his job during his nine years in office.

Mr Jonathan Whyce, the synagogue council's chairman, said that Rabbi Cohen, aged 36, believed being a rabbi was a profession rather than a vocation and he had had to warn him to take more interest in secular activities.

Rabbi Cohen, he added, was also half of a Jewish cabaret act called Mazel and Tov, which performed at social events.

"There was a fundamental difference in how he and the majority of the members saw the role of a rabbi. When I told him he must take more interest in secular activities he replied: 'I'm not taking any more of this

crap' and stormed out of my house."

"I felt very sad about his dismissal. His reaction to it was to say it would be very messy, it would cost the synagogue its new building and he was going to take the synagogue for every penny it had," Mr Whyce said.

Mrs Irene Rondell accused Rabbi Cohen of making digs at members of his congregation during services. Once she said, he had talked about the place of non-Jews in a Jewish community after the sister of a member had married a non-Jew. The member involved had left the service in tears.

Yet, Mrs Rondell added, Rabbi Cohen had attended the wedding reception and offended some Jews by eating non-kosher food. She later said that it had been a ham sandwich.

"There had been complaints that he dressed very sloppily up to very recently on some occasions, when on synagogue business. He would wear a lumberjack-type shirt or a T-shirt and an anorak that was falling to pieces," Mrs Rondell said.

The hearing continues today.

Sinclair buggy criticized

By Tim Jones

While Sir Clive Sinclair prepares for the launch tomorrow of his controversial open-top, single-seat, three-wheel buggy, Mr Bernard Cowney, of Llanelli, Dyfed, has already attracted the attention of police and public with his own rival converted Hillman Imp.

Sir Clive's vehicle, code named the CS, will be unveiled at Alexandra Palace, London. Huge secrecy has surrounded its development at the Honer factory at Merthyr Tydfil which according to some reports has cost £10 million.

Yesterday the CS came in for fierce criticism from Mr James Tye, director general of the British Safety Council.

After testing the car at Sinclair's Coventry headquarters he said: "I am astonished that within a few days 14-year-old children will be able to drive on the road in this without a licence, without a crash helmet, without a seat belt, without insurance and with no form of training."

It has a top speed of about 14mph, a range of 24 miles and costs £400. Sir Clive hopes to sell 100,000 this year.

Heston to act on London stage

The American film actor, Charlton Heston, yesterday announced his debut on the London stage, in a production of *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial*.

It opens in Brighton on February 4 and appears in Bath and Manchester before moving to the Queen's Theatre on February 28.



Heart hope: Brooke Matthews arriving at the hospital with her mother, Mrs Deborah Matthews, yesterday.

Hospital prepares to treat heart-lung girl

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Brooke Matthews, aged 5 whose father staged an armed robbery to help pay for the heart-lung transplant she may need, was assessed for the surgery in a London hospital yesterday.

Brooke's father, Mr Robert Matthews, last month held up a McDonald's hamburger bar in Melbourne, Australia, where the family live, but was caught with his £1,700 haul and now faces trial. He told police he resorted to robbery after learning that Brooke had only a few months to live.

Yesterday Brooke, who suffers from a form of pulmonary hypertension, was examined at the National Heart Hospital by Mr Magdi Yacoub, one of Britain's leading transplant surgeons.

She was brought to the hospital by her mother, Mrs Deborah Matthews, aged 26, who travelled with her from Australia last week, after well-wishers donated money to pay the travel and hospital expenses.

Brooke underwent tests at the National but will have to return for more in the next few days, the hospital said. "A decision about whether she is a suitable candidate for a heart-lung transplant has not been taken yet."

If Brooke is to have the operation, she will join about half a dozen patients awaiting similar surgery at Harefield hospital, west London, where Mr Yacoub and his colleagues perform transplants.

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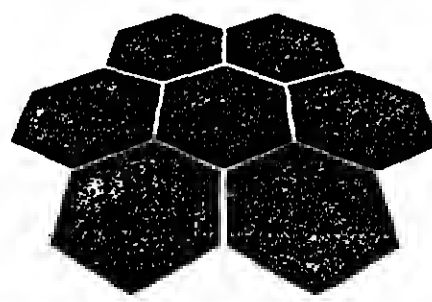
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Cellnet opens in London, January 9th and will cover most major towns and cities in the U.K. by end 1985.

Magistrates criticized for failing to order injuries compensation

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Magistrates have been criticized for failing to use their new powers to order offenders to pay victims compensation for personal injury, loss and damage up to a level of £2,000.

Mr Michael Ogden, QC, chairman of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, says that it is clear from cases which have come before the board that some courts have not grasped the nature of their powers acquired under the Criminal Justice Act 1982.

When courts do order compensation, the amounts are generally far too low, he says in an article in the latest issue of *The Magistrate*.

If a court imposes a substantial fine, but orders no compensation, where an offence of actual harm has caused a broken nose or fractured jaw and the victim was in no way himself to blame, it is clear the Parliament's intentions are not being followed, Mr Ogden says.

The Criminal Justice Act enabled courts for the first time to impose compensation as a penalty in its own right, or as well as another penalty. It also

required them to give compensation priority where the offender could not pay that and a fine.

The Magistrates' Association has issued guidelines for compensation orders, suggesting for instance a sum of between £150 and £400 for a fracture of the arm lasting about four weeks, or for the loss of ribs of about six weeks.

"I have to say this is far below the proper level of compensation which a civil court would award in such cases", Mr Ogden says.

If the case is one where compensation is appropriate and the offender can afford it he should pay a proper level, he says. "If a defendant has a good job and is well able to pay the proper figure, albeit by instalments, there seems to me to be no reason why he should not be ordered to do so."

The Home Secretary is considering Mr Ogden's proposal that the board help with the formulation of a guidance circular to magistrates. He sets out several levels of compensation used by the board that

have resulted from an assessment exercise conducted by more than 30 lawyers and judges with the 20 lawyers on the board.

When a surgical operation has been necessary, the board's starting figure for compensation is £700, and when not, it is £450. In the case, for example, of the loss of two front teeth, the suggested figure is £1,200 where a plate has become necessary and £1,000 where a bridge has been provided, taking into account the age of the victim and state of his teeth.

Scarring is difficult to assess because two scars of the same length can look very different, Mr Ogden says. Its impact also depends on the age and sex of the victim and its site.

But the board takes one kind of common scar as a "touchstone" for others: that resulting from an exploratory stomach operation after a stabbing or shooting. The board's starting figure for that scar, which is 6-8 in long and "constitutes an obvious disfigurement" apart from the risk of anaesthesia, is £2,500.

SDP drive for union ballots on Labour cash

By John Winder

In a first step towards getting British political parties funded by public money rather than by contribution from trade unions and business, the Social Democratic Party yesterday launched a campaign to get trade unions to ballot members on whether their union should remain affiliated to the Labour Party.

Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the SDP, said at a press conference in London: "This is the first stage in cleaning up the way British politics is financed."

The campaign is being opened by offering union executives the choice: ballot your members on whether your union should remain affiliated to the Labour Party or the SDP will campaign among your members for a "no" vote to the ballot on continued existence of the political fund.

Unions will be forced to carry out such a ballot by March 1986 under the provisions of the Trade Union Act, 1984.

Mrs Williams has signed a letter to the general secretary of every trade union with a political fund, setting out the SDP's views of the present situation created by the passing of the Trade Union Act and the decision to treat unionists' support for the Labour Party.

She said yesterday that in 1966 71 per cent of the trade unionists voted Labour; in 1979 a bare majority and in 1983 support had fallen to 41 per cent, with the Conservative and Alliance parties splitting the remainder of the trade union vote.

In her letter, Mrs Williams says that activities such as lobbying ministers or campaigning on policy issues can be financed out of general funds, a right remaining unchanged by the new law so that unions do not need political funds for normal trade union lobbying and campaigning activities on behalf of members.

Mrs Williams adds that affiliation to a political party should require the support of a majority of union members in a secret ballot.

Mr Anthony Halmos, the party's trade union officer, said that at least three million trade unionists paid the political levy but did not vote Labour at the last election.

Mr Roy Groom, general secretary of the Association of Professional Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs, last night called Mrs Williams' view "grossly hypocritical in view of her consistent acceptance of money from the Apex political fund" (the Press Association reports).

Mr William Keys, chairman of the Trades Union Congress, said it was "yet another SDP cop-out".

Police in 'Fox' squad inquiry told to quit

Two policemen, Det Constable Carl Beasley and Police Constable Eric Edwin, have been asked to resign after a lengthy internal police inquiry about their conduct during a rape investigation.

Both men were supposed to have been carrying out night surveillance duties for the "Fox squad" during the hunt for a multi-rapist who last summer terrorized families living in three counties. Instead of remaining outside the women's home in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, concealed under her husband's jeep, they were alleged to have entered inside the house and took part in a drinking bout.

Later the woman, Mrs Elaine Pugsley, telephoned the police in a distressed condition.

Mrs Pugsley also claimed the policemen drank two-thirds of a bottle of gin and half a bottle of brandy. Yesterday Bedfordshire Police said that after an internal disciplinary hearing chaired by Mr Maurice Buck, Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, both men had been found guilty of three charges and asked to resign.

They were each found guilty of drinking on duty, neglect of duty and disobeying orders, but were cleared of the more serious charge of discreditable conduct. The two police officers say they plan to appeal against their sentence.

Sainsbury reduces heavy lorry traffic

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

A sharp reduction in the number of high street juggernauts is being achieved by new distribution systems developed by J. Sainsbury, Britain's biggest grocery chain.

In Bristol alone, heavy lorry movements to the Sainsbury superstore will be reduced from 120 to 30 a day as a result of a new transport interchange opened off the M4 at Yatton, near Bristol, yesterday.

A chain of seven depots like it all over the country will reduce Sainsbury's heavy-lorry fleet to about 1,000 from the 3,000 to 4,000 that would be needed under the old system, Mr Len Payne, Sainsbury's director in charge of transport and distribution, said.

Covering 15 acres of previously open country and providing 250 jobs in an area of high unemployment, the depot

consolidates £150 million of goods a year from as far away as Scotland and the Continent into full lorries for 40 Sainsbury stores between Poole, Exeter, South Wales and the Midlands.

Each store will receive its produce in a small number of large loads rather than a large number of small loads, reducing urban congestion and environmental damage, Mr Payne said.

There is a price to pay in the form of more traffic on rural roads around the depot: a crowd of vociferous schoolchildren demonstrated yesterday's opening about reduced road safety on their local roads and in the greater size of lorries that visit towns and cities.

But Mr Payne said that the modern 32-ton makes less noise and does less road damage than the old 16-ton vehicle it replaces.

Ford offer accepted at Halewood

Car workers at the Ford plant in Halewood, Liverpool, yesterday ignored their shop stewards' advice and accepted the company's 7 per cent pay offer.

Staff at the plant in Dagenham, Essex, have not accepted the deal, which includes two days' extra holiday and an improved pension scheme.

Both Dagenham and Halewood are back to full production after a six-week strike by machinists which laid off 10,000 workers.

At Halewood last week there was a walk-out by workers in the wiring section, and union officials said that there could be more trouble if Ford does not include their demands for a production line allowance in the next pay package.

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Holiday investment 'was fraud'

More than 200 people were caught in a £600,000 swindle when they sought to buy Spanish holiday homes from a "seller of dreams" the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

They expected fully furnished villas which slept eight, with swimming pools, tennis courts, and a golden beach in Tenerife.

"But the money did not produce a single villa, one bucket of concrete, or even a plug for a swimming pool," Mr Michael Savers, for the prosecution, said.

Their money was siphoned off by the sales company chief for himself, his wife and their business partners.

The victims were of modest means, and included retired people. Many lost their life savings. It was a fraud of a "classic type", carried out by Alexander Grant and his company, Axair, he said.

Grant, aged 52, a director of Pembroke Road, Notting Hill, London, pleads not guilty to conspiring to defraud investors between June 1978 and May 1982; and stealing £15,000 from one investor.

Mr Savers said that Grant

advertised widely with brochures which described the villas for sale at £4,950 to start. They were said to be a "sound investment".

The company boasted of 69 branches world wide but its only known office was rented to Pall Mall and then switched to the basement of Grant's home. The firm had no capital and, when cash rolled in from the public, nothing happened.

There was an angry meeting at an hotel when he promised to pay £170,000 of his own cash into the scheme.

The trial continues today.

Jenkins will fight again

Mr Roy Jenkins, aged 64, a founder of the Social Democratic Party, denied yesterday that he had decided not to fight the next general election.

Mr Jenkins, MP for Glasgow, Hillhead, who recently underwent a successful prostate operation, said: "My intention before the operation was firmly to fight and that has not changed."

Mr Bernard Troth had complained that he was in bed last June when he heard the noise of the balloon's burner.

Mr John McQuater, for the prosecution, said that the basket, which had a number of people in it, was no more than 25 feet from the ground.

Woman charged

Mrs Maureen Cottage, aged 37, of Stapleford, Cambridgeshire, was yesterday remanded in custody for three days when she appeared before Cambridgeshire magistrates charged with the murder of Mrs Doreen Smith, aged 53, a postmistress from Thriplow, Cambridgeshire.

Ice rink adviser

Mrs Betty Callaway, who trained ice-skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, is to advise Slough Borough Council on teaching and training professionals as part of the borough's £3.4 million project.

local injection or a general anaesthetic.

The origins of the treatment lie in studies in West Germany into reasons for jet aircraft damage. It was found that the impact of raindrops on an air frame could set off waves strong enough to shatter brittle materials. As a result, charges were made in the design of cockpit canopies.

A subsequent discussion between scientists who worked on the project and doctors in Germany produced the idea of applying the physical principles involved to shattering kidney stones.

Mr Wickham said that the biggest hurdle was to invent a way to generate and control the shock or sound-wave energy so that it could be directed at a precise place in the body. The answer was to design a special

French open more shelters as cold kills the homeless

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Every morning, a few more bodies are found, frozen on park benches under piles of cardboard boxes and old newspapers, or in the unheated sheds, public lavatories and doorways where the victims had sought shelter from the snow and icy winds. At least 24 people have died as a direct result of the cold in France over the past five days.

The plight of the poor and homeless in the bitter weather has pricked official consciences, and over the past two days four government ministers have visited shelters for the homeless provided by charitable organizations with government assistance. About 3,000 beds have been provided for the homeless in Paris, but demand far outstrips supply.

M. Paul Quilès, France's Minister for Transport and Housing, agreed yesterday to allow certain Métro stations to remain open throughout the night to provide additional heated shelter. He has also asked the railway authorities to open warehouses for use by down and outs.

Even the pigeons have deserted Paris, where temperatures have been regularly falling below minus 10 deg C (14 deg F) at night, and where they have not risen above freezing for the past four days. All parts of France have been affected by the arctic weather, with the lowest temperature of minus 33 deg C being recorded in the Juras.

Not even the Côte d'Azur has been spared. Eight inches of snow fell along the coast around

Nice yesterday, paralysing the airport and turning the palm trees along the Promenade des Anglais an unaccustomed white.

The flamingos have long since forsaken the frozen lakes of the Camargue, father along the coast. In Marseilles, hundreds of families are without water because of burst pipes and frozen mains.

The Ministry of the Environment has called for a 10-day ban on all hunting after an appeal by several animal protection societies. The ban may be extended if the cold spell continues.

In the Haute-Saône, a 56-year-old man was found frozen to death near his home, after going out in search of firewood. In Picardy, a father of two died when he slipped into a frozen lake while trying to save his dog, which had also fallen in. The dog survived.

The cold evidently holds no fear for at least one hardy person. On Sunday, Mme Louise Leveillon, aged 77, went for a dip in the river Orne in Normandy in an outside temperature of minus 4 deg C.

To keep a promise made more than 40 years ago to her former swimming instructor, who died after being deported by the Nazis during the second World War.

● MADRID: The record cold spell claimed its twentieth victim in Spain yesterday, and wiped out a quarter of the Valencia orange crop. Snow fell in Minorca for the first time in 28 years (Harry Debelius writes).

Snow covered the northern

American sues the Kremlin

Los Angeles (Reuters) - An American businessman, Raphael Gregorian, filed \$320 million (£278 million) libel suit against the Soviet Union, saying he was falsely accused of being a U.S. spy.

Mr Gregorian, who also named the Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry and the newspaper *Izvestia* in his suit before a federal court in Los Angeles, said there was no foundation for the accusations. "The allegations were a pure and simple retaliation for the Miller case," Mr Gregorian's lawyer, Mr Gerald Kroll, said.

He was referring to a case in which a former FBI agent, Richard Miller, and a Soviet couple, Nikolas and Svetlana Ogorodnikov, have been accused in Los Angeles of espionage.

Mr Kroll said that Mr Gregorian, from Palo Alto, California, ran a multi-million dollar business in Moscow for 14 years, acting as a middle-man for U.S. companies selling medical equipment to the Soviet Union.

His tour was to try to persuade Mr Mugabe that the Americans, who are leading the negotiations, are sincere, and should be accorded a better chance of success.

Last month, Mr Mugabe, after a meeting of the frontline states, accused the Americans of acting "fraudulently" when they delivered the latest South African proposals to the Angolan Government, and then lobbied the other frontline states.

His talks with Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, were full and friendly. He was, he said, accorded an especially cheery welcome by Mr Mugabe when they met for discussions on Monday.

However, Sir Geoffrey was not able to bring about any developments in the negotiations for the independence of Namibia. Part of the brief for

UN team briefed on Gulf war prisoners

From Alvin McGregor, Geneva

A four-man United Nations mission is having talks at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross before going on to Iraq and Iran to investigate the situation of prisoners of war and civilian internees in the two warring states.

It is also seeing representatives from the two capitals to define the scope and method of its work.

In Iran, beginning on January 18, its priority is an inquiry into the October 10 incident at the Georgan camp for Iraqi prisoners of war when Red Cross delegates witnessed a disturbance, with the Iranian guards intervening and opening fire. Six Iraqis were killed, three in fighting among the prisoners and others by the shots.

Another 40 were injured. The Iranians said the trouble started after a prisoner gave the Red Cross delegates a list of men alleged to be talking against their own Government.

Casting aside its customary circumspection, the Red Cross later accused Iran of systematically seeking to turn the 50,000

half of the country, affecting road, rail and air traffic. The forecast is for colder weather and more snow.

The victims included four people who froze to death in Barcelona and three in Madrid. The others died in accidents, most of them on icy roads.

Only the Canary Islands escaped the cold. Bathing backed in temperatures as high as 24 deg C.

Elsewhere in Europe, Italian farmers said the worst frosts for nearly 20 years threatened to destroy millions of olive and fruit trees, wiping out the livelihood of thousands of people.

In Belgium, railway lines on the main Brussels-Paris route cracked in the cold.

Muscovites, enjoying relatively mild conditions for the time of year, took to their skis to enjoy the benefits of several days of snow or skated along frozen paths in the city parks.

The severe conditions in most of the rest of the continent have caused serious problems for shipping. Copenhagen's harbour has frozen over over with ice 6 in thick and icebreakers have been working non-stop to keep it free. Danish fishermen returning from the Baltic said fish were freezing before they could be taken out of the nets.

Unusually harsh weather also continued to cause chaos in North Africa.

An Algerian newspaper reported that rain and snow were hampering rescue operations in the East of the country.

Howe fails to break Namibia deadlock

From Jan Raath, Harare

Angolans, however, said in November that they were prepared to approve the withdrawal of 20,000 troops within three years.

Sir Geoffrey repeatedly said some kind of arrangement of Cuban withdrawal which would satisfy the South African government would have to be accepted.

At his press conference he said the difference between the two positions lay in the scale and duration of the Cuban stay in Angola. As a result of the talks, however, there was an understanding of the different positions and he hoped that Britain and Zimbabwe would "in our different ways" be able to support steps towards Namibia's independence.

Sir Geoffrey did not meet any of Zimbabwe's opposition lead-

ers. Mr Joshua Nkomo, the president of ZAPU, and Bishop Abel Muzorewa had tendered their apologies for not being able to attend a reception on Monday night, he said.

Mr Ian Smith, the leader of the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe, formerly the Republican Front, is on holiday in South Africa, but Sir Geoffrey did meet senior officials of ZAPU and CAZ.

He said he had discussed with Mr Emmerson Munganga, the Minister of State for Security, the fate of two alleged South African spies - Mr Phillip Harlebury and Mr Colin Evans - who have been in detention since December 1981. Mr Harlebury is a British subject, while Mr Evans holds dual British-Zimbabwean nationality.

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Polish officer names no names

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A Polish deputy Interior Minister was aware of the plot to kill Father Jurek Popieluszko, the acknowledged ring-leader told the murder trial in Torun yesterday. Secret police agent Grzegorz Piotrowski admitted, however, that he had no proof of ministerial involvement in the killing of the Solidarity priest.

The trial has entered its most dangerous phase so far. Two of the accused kidnappers and murderers of Father Popieluszko have tried already to shift much of the blame on to Captain Piotrowski, and the agent (now reduced to the rank of private like his co-defendants) has to decide whether to implicate officers at the very top of the secret police and claim that he was simply obeying orders.

Yesterday Mr Piotrowski, shining with confidence and acting almost like a would-be politician on a soap box, deliberately held back from naming names.

Mr Piotrowski admitted that he had told his own subordinate - a co-defendant, Lieutenant Leszek Pokala and Lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski, that the kidnapping was "not a decision taken at departmental level... for me the lowest level that could have taken such a decision was a deputy minister".

The judge then asked him what made him believe that the kidnapping was approved by such a senior officer. "I knew the style of management [in the Interior Ministry] I knew who would afford to take such a decision, so it is clear that the decision was taken at the very top."

On Monday, Mr Andrzej Grabski, representing the family of Father Popieluszko, read out a statement by Mr Chmielewski implicating General Wladyslaw Cielinski, one of the six deputy Interior Ministers. Mr Piotrowski had suggested the involvement of this minister during the trial with Mr Chmielewski, said the lawyer.

But yesterday Mr Piotrowski did not repeat the name and Mr Chmielewski is now more vague about the involvement of the general.

After the lunchtime break, Mr Piotrowski told a court packed full with relatives of both the murdered priest and of the defendants, as well as priests and reporters, that the kidnap received higher level authorization. But "in an important, shrewdly-delivered phrase," Mr Piotrowski announced: "I see now that for the whole case I never had any proof that a 'head' existed".

The judge seized on this phrase: "So there was no such 'head'?" Mr Piotrowski spread his arms theatrically. "Perhaps it is better that there is no 'head', he said in a drawl."

The judge's intervention reflects the anxieties of the authorities.

The judges also face a crucial test in the next few days. If they fail to press Mr Piotrowski to reveal the identity of senior officers implicated in the Popieluszko affair then the trial will all its candour and apparent good intentions, will be discredited.

The main judge, Mr Artur Kujawa, expelled the secretaries of the lawyers representing the Popieluszko case on Monday, claiming that their notes could be used to undermine the credibility of the official court minutes.

Mr Kujawa, a long-standing Communist Party member and chairman of the Torun court, has also not put pressure on the defendants when they refuse to answer the questions of the Popieluszko family representatives.

Mr Piotrowski remains the central figure in Courtroom 40. He described in detail yesterday his frustrations in doing his job as section head in charge of monitoring the political activities of Catholic priests.

The ex-captain also implicated his immediate superior, the fourth defendant, Colonel Adam Pietraszka, who told him it was "time for 'decisive action' against Father Popieluszko and Father Stanislaw Patkowski, another radical cleric."

Trial fears, page 10

Shock wave treatment for kidney stones

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A technique developed abroad for removing kidney stones without surgery has been used successfully on 50 patients at a London hospital. Within five to six days individuals were back to work and normal activity, compared with a fortnight in hospital and six weeks convalescence in recover after a surgical operation.

The stones were disintegrated by a shock wave, which was generated by a device similar in appearance to the spark plug of a motor car.

Although this is the first time the £1 million machine, called a Lithotripter, has been installed in the United Kingdom, Mr John Wickham, a leading consultant surgeon, said yesterday that 10,000 cases had been treated during four years in Germany and the United States. He suggested

that if six units were installed at other specialist centres in Britain, 6,000 operations a year for kidney stones could be replaced by the new treatment.

Twenty-one of the first 50 cases were National Health Service patients. But the new lithotripter Centre, which cost £3 million,

Kennedy jeered by black crowd for second time in South Africa

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Senator Edward Kennedy was forced to seek the protection of his strong escort of white South African police yesterday when for the second time since his arrival on Saturday he was faced with a hostile demonstration by blacks protesting against his visit.

It occurred when the senator visited offices in Johannesburg of the black Federation of South African Trade Unions. Like the scene at the airport on his arrival, it was staged by the black consciousness Azanian People's Organization, which has accused him of visiting South Africa only for his own political ends.

Mr Kennedy arrived at the offices after delivering a lunchtime speech to 700 top businessmen. The demonstration blocked the entrance to the building and a strong police contingent was rushed to the scene. The senator was forced to leave his limousine half a block away and, surrounded by both his own and South African security men, made a dash for the doorway.

Uniformed police charged into the demonstrators as the senator was pushed unceremoniously through the entrance. As soon as he was inside a security man slammed shut a heavy iron grille.

Police with dogs then set

about driving a crowd of several blacks to both ends of the block housing the union offices, and the senator's car was brought up to the entrance and parked with the rear door open ready for a last getaway.

As Mr Kennedy emerged from his talks he was met with thunderous shouts of "Kennedy Go Home" from blacks packing

Detroit mayor held at protest

Washington - The black mayor of one of the largest cities in the United States, Mr Coleman Young of Detroit, was arrested here as he took part in a demonstration outside the South African Embassy against apartheid (AFP reports).

He and two other protesters were arrested for crossing a police barrier, and face a possible 60 days in prison and a £1,000 (£870) fine.

the pavement on the opposite side of the street. With the car waved cheerfully to them and to the TV cameras recording the scene. Then the door was slammed and the Mercedes leapt away with two carloads of security police escorting it front and back.

It was a bad day for the

senator, one of the South African Government's harshest critics. At the luncheon his own country's ambassador, Mr Herman Nickel, clearly angered him when in an introductory speech to the audience of business leaders, he roundly condemned disinvestment, which Kennedy is believed to favour, as a means of forcing the South African Government to make radical political changes.

Mr Nickel was applauded loudly as he declared that the South African economy needed to create 250,000 new jobs a year for blacks if unemployment was not to grow out of control.

"The notion that an economic squeeze aggravated by foreign disinvestment and bans on new investment will force the South African Government to grant participation in national government and accept a radical transfer of power strikes me as a thoroughly unrealistic," he said.

Mr Kennedy began his speech by saying: "Thank you, Ambassador, for the introduction - I think."

But he skirted round the disinvestment issue, possibly because overnight South African business association had stolen his thunder by issuing a statement calling for reforms.



Brave face: Senator Kennedy, flanked by security men, waving to the hostile demonstrators who had tried to prevent him from entering the offices of a black trade union federation in Johannesburg yesterday.

ANC to intensify liberation war

From Our Correspondent, Lusaka

Mr Oliver Tambo, the president of the African National Congress (ANC), said yesterday that the organization was going to intensify the struggle for freedom in South Africa until apartheid was overthrown.

Marking the anniversary of the beginning of the "war of total liberation" to South Africa, Mr Tambo reiterated in his speech his organization's determination to carry the liberation struggle to its very limits until a new, democratic and non-racial society was created in South Africa.

The ANC leader also paid tribute to young blacks involved in the freedom struggle by offering ideological resistance to the apartheid regime and actually fighting the racist forces. He described them as the "lions of South Africa".

Meanwhile, the ANC executive has denied reports carried in some South African newspapers that it held a meeting with officials of the South African regime. It admitted, however, that it has held non-political, professional talks with a university professor who was being accompanied by a journalist.

But the ANC indicated that it was willing to meet officials of the South African Government if such a meeting would bring about constitutional changes in the country.

So far, four members of Parliament of the ruling National Party have indicated they would be coming here to hold talks with the ANC but in a unofficial capacity. No date has been set.

Greek defence doctrine widens Nato split

Athens (Reuters) - Greek foreign affairs and defence experts yesterday approved a new defence policy, which officials say emphasizes the perceived military threat from Turkey, a fellow Nato member, more than that of neighbouring communist states.

Greek officials said in advance of the meeting that the text would reflect their belief that the military threat to Greece comes from Turkey, not

from Communist neighbours. Greece borders on Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania.

The statement said the new philosophy was based on the idea that "Greece does not claim anything from anybody, but does not give up anything to anybody over sovereign rights."

Greece often uses this phrase to describe its policy on Turkey. Officials here have said the new doctrine will not affect forces normally earmarked for Nato.

Men in the news

Two of President Reagan's senior aides are switching jobs. The president said Mr James Baker and Mr Donald Regan were looking for new challenges after "four grueling years".

Regan: Has the trust of President

Mr Donald Regan has the reputation of being a man who takes orders without question. He follows administration policy to the very letter, even if he might seem uncomfortable with it. He is intensely loyal to the President.

With the help of a family cooconection he rose to the chairmanship of Merrill Lynch, the leading US stock-brokers. A long-term colleague said he ruled like a dictator. Mr Regan himself conceded: "I chewed up an awful lot of executives. At Merrill Lynch, when I said jump, they asked how high." He conceded it was different to government. "Here, they ask why."

He has played Wall Street brilliantly. He is a market man without ideological baggage, although economically to the right. He built an institutional base as strong as any Treasury Secretary in recent history.

His power comes first and foremost from the fact that he enjoys the President's personal confidence. Mr Regan's relationship with the President has helped him deal effectively with the powerful White House staff. On Capitol Hill, too, he has made friends easily.

Baker: The velvet hammer

Mr James Baker, a millionaire Texan and a lawyer, only once sought elective office, as the Republican candidate for Attorney General of Texas. He was beaten.

He has a sound relationship with both Mr and Mrs Reagan. When he was appointed to the White House his wife and eight children moved to Washington with him. He has become known as President Reagan's velvet hammer, although he is seldom seen to wield it.

"This is a manager's job," he said. "You've got to be low key and low visibility, because your one role is that of an honest broker." All the important White House papers pass across his desk, all the appointments, all the policies. It is Mr Baker who tried to ensure that the President saw all sides of an issue.

He has not been one of the ultimate family of Reaganites, much to the delight of conservatives. He is regarded as leading towards the left of the Republican Party. He had no pre-presidential ties to Mr Reagan, and is one of the few non-Californians to get so close to the Oval Office.

'Blast kills hundreds in Siberia'

Moscow (AFP) - Several hundred people were killed in mid-December in an accident at an underground defence industry plant in western Siberia's Kuzbass basin, a reliable source reported here.

The plant, the source said, was deep underground in an abandoned coal mine near the town of Leninsk-Kuznetski. Many party and government officials went to the area immediately after the accident.

Blind duty

Port Huron, Michigan (AP) - A sheriff's deputy, shot between the eyes while chasing two suspected bank robbers, continued a three-mile chase until they were caught. The deputy, Ray Gleason, aged 33, then went to hospital to have the bullet removed. His condition was listed as fair.

Nixon shingles

New York (Reuters) - Former President Richard Nixon has severe shingles and is in excruciating pain, his administrative assistant said. Because of the pain, he plans only a private celebration today at his home in Saddle River, New Jersey, for his 72nd birthday.

Unclaimed body

Los Angeles (AP) - A woman's body was found in a 30 inch by 50 inch unclaimed suitcase at Los Angeles international airport. A customs official said it looked as though she was a stowaway who had died on an aircraft of hypothermia or asphyxiation.

Family united

Dortmund (Reuters) - A Romanian football star, Marcel Radaucou, who defected in 1981 to play in the West, was unexpectedly reunited here with his wife and son, now aged five. "I had given up hope of seeing them again," he said.

Superpower trade may help thaw

Moscow (Reuters) - A high-level US delegation met Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry officials here yesterday in a fresh sign of the superpowers' willingness to use trade as a way of improving strained relations.

The US Under-Secretary for Commerce, Mr Lionel Omer, is heading the American team at three days of talks with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Trade Minister, Mr Vladimir Sushkov, the first contact at such a senior level since 1978.

US Commerce Department officials have made clear they believe there is substantial scope for an increase in trade within President Reagan's limits for sales of goods with military potential.

Soviet imports from the US jumped significantly in the first nine months of last year after falling because of White House restrictions on trade and the general deterioration in US-Soviet relations in 1983.

From January to September 1984, imports reached 1.7 billion roubles (nearly £2 billion), according to Soviet figures, an increase of 70 per cent, but still below levels of the late 1970s.

Soviet officials say Mr Reagan's trade restrictions, designed to halt the flow to Moscow of high technology and anything which might have military applications, are an impediment to improved relations and only benefit US companies' foreign rivals.

The US has fallen from second to seventh place in overall trade turnover with the Soviet Union over the past six years. Tass described this as a level "far behind potential".

● Vienna (Reuters) - Planing chiefs of the 10 nations of Comecon, the Communist trade alliance, began an economic conference in Prague, Yugoslavia, and Yemen were represented by observers.

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PERMANENT
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Peres defends his role in Operation Moses to stifle Knesset dissent

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, officially told the Knesset yesterday that the Government would act "within the range of its ability and even beyond it" to complete the Falasha rescue operation.

"Neither economic difficulty, nor internal distress, nor geographical distance, nor political obstacle shall halt or postpone the rescue and immigration effort, enwrapped in ancient splendour and enveloped in secret heroism", Mr Peres said. "This is a moment of pride for the Jewish people. This is a moment of spiritual uplift for the state of Israel."

Mr Peres was forced to make his brief statement - it lasted less than 10 minutes - to stem the growing tide of internal criticism about the Government's handling of Operation Moses, which was halted in its original form at the weekend by the Belgian airline, Trans European Airways. There are believed to be 12,500 Ethiopian Jews still stranded in drought-afflicted territory.

Mr Peres maintained the strict secrecy being imposed by all arms of the state on the exact details of future plans to rescue the Falashas from their camps. But he ended his statement with the unequivocal assertion: "The immigration is continuing and will continue."

He said he had personally sanctioned last week's controversial press conference confirming the existence of Operation Moses. He had acted in a deliberate attempt to divert world attention from "delicate aspects", including the airlift and the process of absorbing the thousands of new immigrants into Israeli society.

The conference has been blamed by many politicians for being the main reason why the airlift was suddenly halted. Yesterday, Mr Peres said with deliberate vagueness: "We are called upon to renew the restraint and to impose the required silence, maintaining the necessary national trust, so as to permit the completion of this sacred mission."

His statement - the first to Parliament since Operation Moses was prematurely publicized - came at a time of mounting protest from spiritual leaders of the thousands of newly-arrived Falashas.

The holy men claim that the immigrants from Africa have not been treated as proper Jews because they are required to undergo a ritual immersion ceremony before being permitted legal marriages in Israel.

The respected Tel Aviv newspaper, *Haaretz*, reported yesterday that the Ethiopian

leaders had demanded the immersion process be stopped. It followed a statement from Israel's two chief rabbis that it should continue because the Falashas had been cut off from the Jewish people for 2,000 years, and there was suspicion that some may have intermarried.

In an apparent effort to still the controversy, Mr Peres told Parliament: "We are one people. There are no black Jews and white Jews; there are Jews. History and faith bind us together." He went on to cite a number of historic rabbinical authorities to support the contention that the Falashas were true Jews.

"Zionism is a central religious tenet among the Jews of Ethiopia. This belief has moved them to risk their lives to reach the land of their destination."

In the statement - which by last night appeared to have succeeded in persuading two opposition parties to drop threatened no-confidence motions - Mr Peres also paid credit to his former political rival, Mr Menachem Begin.

Mr Peres said it was the right time to discharge a debt of honour to Mr Begin, "whose government invested efforts and resources to make possible the first, hidden trickle which has blazed a trail."

Israel pulls out of Naqqoura session

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Israeli Defence Ministry officials yesterday said they would not send delegates to the next Naqqoura meeting, planned for tomorrow, because of the stalemate in the talks on Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

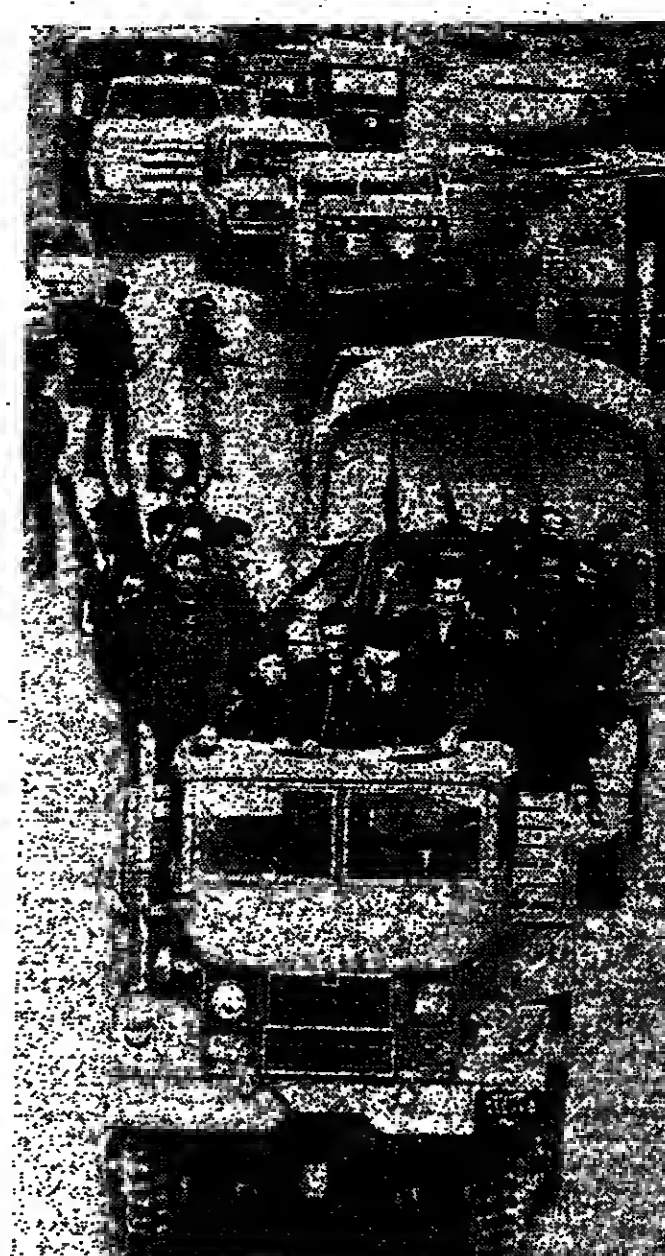
The ministerial Defence Committee, headed by the Prime Minister, plans to open a series of meetings in Jerusalem today on future options, including a unilateral pull-out. Officials said it was pointless to continue negotiations before ministers reached their decision.

Mr Brian Urquhart, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, is due back in the area at the end of next week and may try to break the deadlock.

The Israelis said at the last meeting on Monday that the Lebanese balked at giving a clear answer to proposals about security arrangements in safeguarding northern Israel after a withdrawal.

A main component of the Israeli conception is the deployment of UN forces in the northern sector of the area to be evacuated.

● **KREISKY PLEA:** The former Austrian Chancellor, Dr Bruno Kreisky, announced a new peace initiative to solve the Palestinian problem and said he would visit Israel and the United States next month (Reuters reports).



Show of force: Lebanese security forces driving south along the coastal road from Beirut spearheading the Lebanese Army's deployment

Senators attack CIA role in Nicaragua

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

A Senate intelligence committee report has claimed that the Central Intelligence Agency exercised "inadequate supervision and management" of the covert war against Nicaragua's left-wing Government, a failure that contributed to congressional funds for the anti-Sandinista rebels being cut off last year.

The 61-page report also predicted that controversy over the CIA's mining of Nicaraguan harbours and its production of a manual on political violence for the rebels would haunt President Reagan in his expected effort next month to revive the funding.

A copy of the report, outlining the committee's activities, was provided to the Associated Press on Monday.

It said the mining of Nicaragua's harbours in 1984 and the failure of Mr William Casey, the CIA director, to adequately notify the committee of it in advance precipitated a crisis in the committee's relations with the intelligence community.

The Congressional vote in October to suspend aid to the rebels until February 28 means that CIA assistance can be resumed only if President Reagan certifies that the covert operation is needed, and if both Houses of Congress approve the funding.

Ferraro's fame harmed husband

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Ms Geraldine Ferraro, whose bid for the US vice-presidency has caused her such deep personal trauma, feels that the fame of her "historic" candidacy played a part in the legal troubles, now faced by her husband - a man dragged unwillingly from his private, esoteric world of New York property deals into the glare of front page attention. Much as he hates it, his wife has made him a celebrity.

Mr John Zaccaro, aged 51, who like his wife is an Italian American, felt humiliated by having to disclose the family finances as part of the requirement for his wife's vice-presidential attempt. At first he refused. It was like a family squabble conducted on page one.

Ms Ferraro, has now, in a sense, publicly told him off for the charge he now faces. He committed a "judgmental error" in trying to help a client, he said. He pleaded guilty in Manhattan on Monday to "an indictment charging him with scheming fraudulently to obtain financing for a multimillion dollar property deal."

The District Attorney said the scheme had been designed to net large commissions for Mr Zaccaro and a partner. The indictment was on a single misdemeanor charge, he pleaded guilty in the State Supreme Court under a pre-arranged agreement that he would not be sent to prison.

The stiffest penalty he faces is a \$1,000 (£870) fine. A misdemeanor is a low-level offence, but there can be little doubt that the affair will damage his wife's political career. She no longer has a congressional seat; she had to resign when she was nominated as the Democratic vice-presidential candidate.

Mr Zaccaro said he hoped the guilty plea would end "the inquiries and the microscopic attention given to my personal and business affairs since July". In effect, he clearly was blaming at least some of his legal troubles on the fame of his wife.

The *New York Times* commented in its main leader yesterday: "The wonder is not that Geraldine Ferraro's political life put him in the spotlight, but that his glare did not cause him to be more cautious in his business dealings - long before Walter Mondale beckoned."

Mr Zaccaro said in a statement that he believed he could have successfully defended himself, but that he decided to plead guilty "in light of the nature of the charges and in order to spare my family the publicity of prolonged legal proceedings".

A statement from Ms Ferraro said: "Today's events bring an end to the difficult period my husband has endured stemming from my historic candidacy... he freely admitted his mistake and for this I am proud of him. John is a decent, honorable man and today's events do nothing to change him in the eyes of his family and friends. We love him very much."

One of most traumatic episodes of Ms Ferraro's campaign was a newspaper disclosure that her parents had been charged several decades ago with a gambling offence.

Ms Ferraro later said that when she read the story she burst into tears. She implied that she wished she had never run for vice-president, and said she would spend the rest of her life trying to make it up to her family for the damage that had been done.

US priest abducted by Beirut gunmen

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

An American priest working with a Roman Catholic relief organization in Lebanon was abducted by gunmen in the western Muslim sector of Beirut yesterday less than 12 hours after the kidnapped Swiss diplomat, Mr Eric Wehrli, was freed after four days of captivity.

Police said that at least six armed men were involved in the kidnapping of Father Lawrence Jenco, aged 50, a member of the Servite order from Chicago, Illinois. Father Jenco has been the director of the Catholic Relief Services office here since last October.

A spate of kidnappings and other attacks on Westerners have occurred in west Beirut since Muslim and Druse militiamen took control of the mostly Muslim sector of the capital early last year. Although the Lebanese Government has tried to restore law and order, gunmen still move freely on the streets.

Father Jenco was the fifth American reported to have been kidnapped or missing in west Beirut since last February.

Mr Wehrli, the Charge d'Affaires at the Swiss Embassy, was freed on Monday night when security forces from the



Mr Wehrli: Freed after four days' captivity

Shiite militia Amal stormed the house where he was being kept. He refused both Monday and yesterday to talk to reporters, and there were reports on Beirut radio stations that he would probably leave the country.

Mr Nabih Berri, leader of Amal and a member of the Lebanese Cabinet, said that Mr Wehrli had been held by relatives of a Lebanese man arrested in Zurich in connection with an alleged plot to blow up the United States Embassy in Rome.

No group had so far claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Father Jenco.

The kidnapping came as Lebanese policemen began yesterday to move south of Beirut along the coastal highway, which has been closed by militiamen since the February, 1984, round of the civil war.

The step is the first phase in a plan that calls for the eventual deployment of the Lebanese Army along the strip leading to the Israeli-occupation zone in south Lebanon. The move is designed to reopen the highway and end the fighting in the area.

French colonel shot dead

The deputy commander of the French observer force in Lebanon, Lieutenant-Colonel Claude Cuervo, has been shot dead in west Beirut, according to a fellow officer (Reuters reports).

Colonel Cuervo, aged 45, was found last night with a bullet wound in his head at the western end of the Museum crossing point to east Beirut. Captain Claude Bushing said the colonel was off duty and in civilian clothing.

Kasparov tops rankings but agrees to a draw

Moscow (AFP) - The world chess championship tussle ground on yesterday as the title holder, Anatoly Karpov and his challenger, Gary Kasparov, drew for the 33rd time in the series in the Hall of Columns here.

On Karpov's proposal, the 39th game in the marathon, adjourned on Monday on the 41st move for Kasparov, was declared a draw on move 49.

Karpov, who took a 5-0 lead by winning the 27th game, still needs one more victory to retain his crown. The series began on September 10.

The 40th game is due to be played today, again in the ornate Hall of Columns near Red Square. Earlier pressure for a change of venue was stoutly resisted by Karpov who objected to continuing the series in an hotel in the Moscow suburbs.

He was apparently supported at the highest level, namely by the Soviet Culture Minister, Mr Piotr Demichev.

In the International Chess

Federation's twice-annual ratings published yesterday Kasparov is ranked top but the Moscow title match was not yet in the reckoning; it was explained. Top ratings: 1, Gary Kasparov (USSR), 2,715 pts; 2, Anatoly Karpov (USSR), 2,705; 3, Jan Timman (Netherlands), 2,650; 4, Rafael Vaganian (USSR), 2,640; 5, Aleksandr Belyavsky (USSR), and Laszlo Portisch (Hungary).

Thirty-nine game results: White, Karpov; Black, Kasparov. 1-10-83 P-0-0 2 P-0-0 3-0-0 4 P-0-0 5 P-0-0 6 P-0-0 7 P-0-0 8 P-0-0 9 P-0-0 10 P-0-0 11 P-0-0 12 P-0-0 13 P-0-0 14 P-0-0 15 P-0-0 16 P-0-0 17 P-0-0 18 P-0-0 19 P-0-0 20 P-0-0 21 P-0-0 22 P-0-0 23 P-0-0 24 P-0-0 25 P-0-0 26 P-0-0 27 P-0-0 28 P-0-0 29 P-0-0 30 P-0-0 31 P-0-0 32 P-0-0 33 P-0-0 34 P-0-0 35 P-0-0 36 P-0-0 37 P-0-0 38 P-0-0 39 P-0-0 40 P-0-0 41 P-0-0 42 P-0-0 43 P-0-0 44 P-0-0 45 P-0-0 46 P-0-0 47 P-0-0 48 P-0-0 49 P-0-0 50 P-0-0 51 P-0-0 52 P-0-0 53 P-0-0 54 P-0-0 55 P-0-0 56 P-0-0 57 P-0-0 58 P-0-0 59 P-0-0 60 P-0-0 61 P-0-0 62 P-0-0 63 P-0-0 64 P-0-0 65 P-0-0 66 P-0-0 67 P-0-0 68 P-0-0 69 P-0-0 70 P-0-0 71 P-0-0 72 P-0-0 73 P-0-0 74 P-0-0 75 P-0-0 76 P-0-0 77 P-0-0 78 P-0-0 79 P-0-0 80 P-0-0 81 P-0-0 82 P-0-0 83 P-0-0 84 P-0-0 85 P-0-0 86 P-0-0 87 P-0-0 88 P-0-0 89 P-0-0 90 P-0-0 91 P-0-0 92 P-0-0 93 P-0-0 94 P-0-0 95 P-0-0 96 P-0-0 97 P-0-0 98 P-0-0 99 P-0-0 100 P-0-0 101 P-0-0 102 P-0-0 103 P-0-0 104 P-0-0 105 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Capture of Ampil deals crippling blow to Cambodian resistance

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Kouing 3,000 Cambodian guerrillas, Vietnamese forces overtook the main resistance headquarters at Ampil near the Thai border, according to Thai Army and Western intelligence sources.

The Vietnamese now control the area, although officials of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front claim they are still contesting control of Ampil in close-quarters fighting.

The officials said the attack, which began early on Monday, was four times heavier than anything they had seen before. They admitted their men had been overwhelmed by Soviet-built T-54 tanks and by the ferocity of the artillery bombardment.

"We just did not have the heavy weapons and the anti-tank mines to combat tank attacks," they said, although they did claim to have knocked out eight of the twenty seven armoured vehicles employed in the battle.

Thousand of artillery round had shell-shocked some of the guerrillas, who wandered around aimlessly. The shells had churned up every piece of land in the Ampil camp.

Guerrilla officers also admitted that some of the men had been demoralized and had weapons against the tanks were light automatic rifles. Some

guerrillas fled from the tanks on motor cycles.

Casualties are still not known as medical workers have been unable to reach dead and wounded, but they are thought to be heavy on both sides. Vietnamese casualties must have been severe, according to

Vietnam downs Thai fighter

Tension on the border was increased by the shooting down yesterday of a Thai Air Force A-37 fighter by a Vietnamese ground-to-air missile over north-east Thailand. A Thai military spokesman said the missile had come from the Thai-Cambodian border. The aircraft was attacking Vietnamese troops who had intruded into Thailand in pursuit of the retreating guerrillas. One of the plane's crew ejected safely but the other is missing, believed killed.

The guerrillas, as they had attacked in wave after wave.

Four miles north of Ampil at San Lor, 3,500 more Cambodian civilians fled into Thailand from advancing Vietnamese troops. Only one small liberation encampment is now left inside Cambodia.

The events are crippling

blows for the resistance but a senior liberation front official, Dr Abdul Gaffar, said: "It has never been our policy to fight to the last man anywhere, but we shall continue our struggle."

Vietnam's political strategy had led it to attack the non-communist section of the resistance rather than the much stronger Khmer Rouge. Dr Gaffar said:

"If they got rid of us, Vietnam could then say to the world: 'We must stay in Cambodia to save the people from the Khmer Rouge'."

Vietnam has made no military attacks on the Khmer Rouge recently.

● CREDIBILITY HIT: The battle has been described as crucial to the international credibility of the non-communist section of the liberation front (AFP report).

Western diplomats in Bangkok saw the attack as a drive to diminish the liberation front's ability to give political support to the Khmer Rouge, which is the hardest fighting group in the resistance.

General Pichit, commander of the Thai First Army, said the military co-ordinator of the liberation front, General Dien Dell, was still alive, but he did not know his whereabouts.

General Dien Dell's headquarters were destroyed early in the attack on Monday.

Japanese magazines locked in battle

Spicy stories and Royals lure readers

From David Watts Tokyo

The British Royal Family and the Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima are fighting in a furious competition for the largest slice of the Japanese weekly magazine market.

Japanese publishing is more diverse and prolific than anywhere else in the non-communist world and nowhere is the competition keener than for periodical readers in their twenties and thirties.

Until two years ago publishers concentrated on specialist interest magazines for both men and women until the respected Kodansha house brought out a revolutionary new magazine spanning both male and female readership.

The combination of spicy stories and grainy paparazzi pictures was an immediate hit and the first edition of *Focus* sold out in two days. The format is snappy and easily digested, with each story accommodated in a double-page spread, a dramatic photo-

graph taking up 75 per cent of the space and the story the remainder.

The editor, Mr Akio Gotoh believes his finely distilled pieces pack more information into the available space than any of the more conventional magazines. Most of the money, though, goes into the pictures. So far the record individual price paid for a foreign photograph is one and half million yen (about £5,000) for a clandestine shot of the Prince and Princess of Wales on holiday.

An illegal courtroom shot of the former Prime Minister, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, being arranged on charges of accepting a \$2 million bribe from Lockheed was a little more difficult to come by.

Court sessions were held irregularly on Wednesday. In order not to arouse suspicion a different young part-timer was dispatched to the court each time with a miniature camera. In the end it took 30 people to get the shot which cost five

million yen (about £16,000) and a court reprimand.

But now *Focus* stands in danger of not being earthy enough to keep the notoriously fickle attention of young Japanese: it has one challenger trying to take a slice of its market and there may be second next year.

The upstart, too, uses a single English word for its title, *Friday*, English is de rigueur for any product or idea which has any pretensions to being modern.

Already *Friday* is selling more than a million copies as against one-and-a-half million for *Focus*. Its editor, Mr Toshiro Itoh, believes there is an overall market of about three million copies weekly for this type of magazine.

In its second issue *Friday* featured a photograph guaranteed to bring any reader up short: there spread across the pages was the picture every Japanese imagined 14 years ago but hoped never to see - the bloody head of the novelist Yukio Mishima 18 inches from

the torso minutes after he committed ritual suicide in November 1970.

"We've had that picture for years," sniffed the *Focus* editor. "We decided not to use it because we don't think readers should be shown cruelty just for the sake of it. Unless there is some lesson to be learnt from it."

Mr Itoh of *Friday* does not philosophize: "This is the age of the computer. People expect to be able to press a button and get the answer. We reflect the way things have been changing."

The arrival of *Friday* has forced *Focus* to shift from its tasteful cover art to something more titillating but the British Royal Family is a strong card in both magazines.

In one of the latest issues the Princess of Wales is seen on board the Royal Princess cruise ship and in another, the young Prince Hironomiya, who is studying at Oxford, stands, hands clasped behind his back, in earnest conversation with the Duke of Edinburgh amid a vast sea of heather at Balmoral.

Spain asks Lisbon to investigate shooting

From Martha de la Cal Lisbon

Spain's ambassador to Lisbon has delivered a strong protest to Portugal's Foreign Ministry over the death of the Spanish fisherman Juan Flores Guzman, shot by Portuguese border guards while allegedly attempting to smuggle five boxes of shrimps into the country on Saturday.

The note demands an investigation be held to determine responsibility and points out that the punishment was out of proportion to the crime. A spokesman for the Portuguese Foreign Ministry said a reply was being prepared.

The border between the countries on the Guadiana river at Ayamonte and Vila Real de Santo Antonio was closed until yesterday morning. About 5,000 people attended the funeral of Senior Guzman yesterday in Ayamonte, Spain.

Relations between Spain and Portugal are at a very low ebb. The shooting of the fisherman is one more incident in the continuing "fishing war" between the countries, which has intensified since both applied to join the EEC.

Portugal and several EEC countries fear the modern, well-equipped Spanish fishing fleet. Three months ago, Portugal rescinded the 1969 and 1978 fishing agreement which permitted Spain to fish in Portuguese waters.

China goes slow on price rises

From Mary Lee Peking

China's expected price reforms will be carried out with caution, and at a similar pace.

In a front-page article in yesterday's *People's Daily*, Mr Tian Jiyun, one of the deputy Prime Ministers, sought to explain why the present "irrational price disparities" between products and sale prices must end. But he then assuaged fears of inflation by saying that only small adjustments would be made first and the Government would do things "step by step".

Big price changes, Mr Tian said, would be carried out "only when conditions are right", but the sole indicator of when that would be came in the guideline that the reforms for essential food, edible oil and housing would be "postponed" until the state's financial situation (meaning more tax revenue) had further improved.

State subsidies for vital agricultural products would not be completely lifted, Mr Tian also gave a warning against arbitrary price rises by China's burgeoning number of enterprises freed from bureaucratic control. "Anyone taking advantage of the reform to seek profits will be severely punished," he said.

27,000 are expelled by Nigeria

Lagos (AFP) - A total of 27,045 illegal immigrants were expelled from Nigeria between January and October last year, the Nigerian Interior Minister, General Mohamed Magoro, said.

The borders, closed last April, would stay shut until Nigeria's economic and security problems had been solved, he said. A thousand extra immigration officers were being recruited and all immigration staff would be trained to use firearms.

In addition, all Nigerians over the age of 10 would have to carry identity cards from next July, General Magoro said. That would facilitate census taking. Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, is estimated to have about 90 to 100 million inhabitants.

The national prison population was about 49,000, the general said. According to the Nigerian News Agency, about 30,000 people are in prison awaiting trial. Forty-one new prisons are being built across the country and 10 of them will be finished by the end of this year.

The head of state, General Buhari, pardoned 2,407 prisoners on New Year's Day. General Magoro said that had been for humanitarian reasons, but it had also relieved prison overcrowding.

Sony's tiny video camera makes a big impression

From Our Own Correspondent, Tokyo

Sony launched the next big home entertainment fad yesterday with the announcement of an 8mm video camera.

It ends a "Phoney war" between the Japanese electronic giants which have all been holding back from showing their hands in what is certain to be a tough new round of competition.

For Sony, there was little choice but to get into the market as soon as possible. It's Betamax format video has been steadily losing ground to the more widely accepted VHS system. With an agreed 8mm format covering all the principal manufacturers, this is Sony's chance to make up lost ground.

The small camera made a striking debut in front of several hundred journalists and technologists who have been eagerly awaiting Sony's move. They were not disappointed. The system's performance was as striking as its size.

The unit is a one-piece recorder-player, weighing only 5lb, with battery and tape in place. Its video cassette is smaller, although slightly wider, than an ordinary audio cassette.

Officials demonstrated the camera, feeding it direct into a monitor and playing back the resulting recording. The resolution seemed to be as good as the conventional half-inch tape camera, and its small size and lighter weight makes it much more manoeuvrable than its larger brother. With an elec-

tronic viewfinder, video tape can be played back instantly.

New technology has allowed Sony to reduce the size of the camera, improve the resolution of its imager by 30 per cent and reduce its power consumption. Development of metal recording tapes and new recording heads has allowed high-density recording on a small area of tape, while all circuit boards have been reduced by 40 per cent. Batteries will allow an hour of continuous recording; tapes will offer up to 90 minutes playing at first and 120 later.

The 8mm camera will go on sale in Japan on January 21 at the equivalent of £965. Initial production will be 20,000 cameras a month, but no export plans have yet been drawn up. A Sony spokesman said the company would seek the best foreign launch area for the camera.

Sony made it clear that it intends to continue its series of half-inch tape video cameras and recorders. The company announced a Betamax "high-end beta" camera using the same imager technology as the 8mm camera and a series of new metal tapes giving better picture resolution.

● FAST WORKER: Fujitsu, Japan's largest computer producer, said it had developed the world's fastest super-computer, able to carry out more than a billion operations a second (Reuters reports).

Conference on a glacier

Wellington (Reuters) - An international study group left yesterday for a remote polar glacier to discuss the future of the 25-year-old Antarctic Treaty, which demilitarized the continent and established it as a nuclear-free zone.

Scientists, diplomats, lawyers and environmentalists from 28 countries will attend the five-day conference on the Bear-

shore Glacier, about 400 miles from the South Pole. The 55 delegates include representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union and China.

Many non-aligned countries not among the 32 treaty members are pressing to have Antarctica placed under United Nations control. But treaty members prefer to keep it under closer control.

Seoul police swoop on banned leader

From Our Own Correspondent, Tokyo

Mr Kim Young Sam, co-chairman of South Korea's newly formed Council for the Promotion of Democracy, got swift proof yesterday that the Seoul Government is serious about keeping him under wraps as elections approach.

As Mr Kim left his house in Seoul to campaign for the New Korea Democratic Party, the

active political aim of the council, he was quickly surrounded by about a hundred police, making good on a warning that the authorities were prepared to use force to stop him from taking an active part in politics. He is one of 15 politicians still banned by the Government in the South.

After detaining him under a

form of house arrest for more than two-and-a-half hours, the police left. A government spokesman said there was no intention to detain Mr Kim, who has been intermittently under house arrest.

Mr Kim is helping to build the New Korea Democratic Party in preparation for next month's elections.

Smoking banned in Red Square

Moscow (Reuters) - Moscow City Council has decided to ban smoking in Red Square.

The no-smoking rule, in force from tomorrow, is in response to complaints from the public that smoking did not match the reverent atmosphere due to Lenin's burial place, the announcement in an evening newspaper said.

Relations between Spain and Portugal are at a very low ebb. The shooting of the fisherman is one more incident in the continuing "fishing war" between the countries, which has intensified since both applied to join the EEC.

Portugal and several EEC countries fear the modern, well-equipped Spanish fishing fleet. Three months ago, Portugal rescinded the 1969 and 1978 fishing agreement which permitted Spain to fish in Portuguese waters.



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Mount Pleasant Airfield, a staggering feat of construction, is nearly finished. In the last of a series, RODNEY TYLER reports from the South Atlantic on an even more daunting challenge facing the islands - how to create a viable economy where none existed before

Now the fight is for survival

Just over a year ago a bulldozer breasted the rise seven miles inland from East Cove in the Falklands, and the men who were to build Mount Pleasant Airfield (MPA), the hub of the islands' future defence, saw for the first time where they were going to do it. It is now nearly finished.

The scale of the achievement is staggering. Large sections of the main runway - 8,500 feet long and capable of handling the largest international jets - only need the final topcoat of tarmac. Eight million tons of soil, rock and surfacing material have been removed to create it in just 12 months.

A power station capable of handling the needs of a town of 10,000 people has been built since April; the hangar, large enough to house a Tri-Star, since June. The kitchen, dining, recreational and bar facilities for the 2,000 construction workers took a mere six weeks. Their living accommodation only slightly longer.

A small 1,500-ft runway for the local island-hopper air service took two and a half days to complete, and the road through to Stanley 30 miles away will be open next month.

"If this had been attempted in the UK it would have taken at least five years," says Maurice Channing, regional director of the Property Services Agency which is managing the project. Contrary to speculation, the development is on schedule for the first plane to land for tests on April 15, and the inaugural Tri-Star flight from the UK will be in May.

What makes the achievement even more remarkable are the logistics of planning and executing it as an entirely self-contained operation at 8,000 miles distance. When the 16,000-ton Merchant Providence tied up at East Cove on October 28, 1983 - seven miles away from the site where the MPA was to be built - the first item it winched over the side was a bulldozer, which first made space for a second one, then together they made a path up the slope from the shore, cleared a space there for the Portakabins which were to be assembled as homes for the first 100 men, then started building the jetty so materials could be unloaded.

"Whatever we did we had to bring in the materials to do it with. There was literally nothing and nobody here," said Channing. "We had to bring in the men, the machines, the food and the housing - everything."

In seven weeks the road to the site itself was completed and the men and machinery - four

of the former in every one of the latter - could start work. To wander round the site is to be no less than amazed at what has been achieved - a testament as much to the skills of the Lining/Mowlem/Arney consortium as to the men themselves who have worked at their predecessors yomped, through a Falklands winter - six, often seven days a week.

"We have the equivalent of three army battalions of men here," Channing adds. "All of them are away from home, with nothing like military discipline behind them and nowhere else to go but the site. It is amazing that we have had so little trouble and got so much willing work out of them. Some days in the winter they worked on in blinding snow with the wind bringing the chill factor down to minus 30 degrees."

If, as is quite possible, Mrs Thatcher decides to open the airport herself - then she will feel justifiably proud of it. For

In three short years the islands have gone from being invasion prone, through invasion resistant to invasion proof

she will be able to confound her critics who said it could never be done.

To those who said it should never have been done, and that £359 million was too expensive, she can now declare that in three short years the Falklands have gone from being invasion prone, through invasion resistant to invasion proof.

The garrison required to defend them can now be allowed to shrink to a more financially acceptable level of just over 2,000. The runway, with its Tri-Star capacity, is designed with the Army's new 5th Air Portable Brigade in mind. Indeed it is no coincidence that its first brigadier will be Robert Corbett, who is at present Chief of Staff in the Falklands.

With arms and supplies pre-stocked on the site and Chinooks waiting, four Tri-Stars will be able to take two battalions from Britain and deploy them in the Falklands in less than 24 hours.

The airfield is by no means the only remarkable achievement in the second battle of the Falklands - the initial, urgent, process of making the place at least temporarily invasion re-

sistant bred two other examples of technological lateral thinking, for each of which there is now predicted to be a world market.

After June, 1982, it became clear that Port Stanley, with its population of only 800, was no place - even in the short term - to house 3,000 men billeted, nor could its jetty handle the quantity of freight required to feed, clothe and supply them, and commence the fortressing of the Falklands.

Using as a base the massive North Sea oil rig barges - each almost the size of a football field - the first development was to build two and five-storey blocks of flats out of containers on three of them. One even has squash courts and a swimming pool in the "basement" and a fully equipped gymnasium in the "roof".

The second development, similarly portable and similarly built on a base of the barges - six of them - was a full size port and storage area capable of handling three ships at a time. By cutting the turnaround time from 21 days to as many hours per ship, the £25 million development is thought to have paid for itself already.

These facilities, on the outskirts of Stanley, will be used less and less as the garrison consolidates in its new home at Mount Pleasant, 30 miles away, from April. The MPA is designed to have two other roles in the long term future of the islands.

The first is to act as a sort of reverse Trojan Horse to prevent any future British government cutting back on its military commitment to the islands in one of those sporadic "necessary" defence cuts without it also abandoning at the same time any political pretence of a desire to hold on to them.

For so well equipped will the fortress be, that should it again fall into an invader's hands, no task force, however determined, would be able to get it back. Mrs Thatcher's legacy in respect of the Falklands is that from now on whoever holds them can do so, with the minimum required garrison no matter who or how vigorous the assault.

"We're here to make sure that what happened in 1982 never happens again," says Gen Peter de la Billiere, the military commander on the islands. "And to ensure that the democracy we won back through the sacrifice of British lives is not given away again through inadequate force levels."

The second role of MPA, also consciously a Thatcher legacy, is the availability of a portion of



LEFT: Richard and Griselda Cockwell in the mill where they aim to make the first Falklands woollens. RIGHT (top to bottom): Floating homes for the troops; the Merchant Providence at East Cove; Jeremy Moore Avenue; Maurice Channing in the Mount Pleasant Airfield hangar

the 8,500-acre site and its facilities for commercial use. Not only is an expansion of trade and tourism expected, but also the exploration of local and Antarctic oil and minerals.

The third battle of the Falklands is to drastically boost the economy. Normal, it will never be again. For normal was a one-item economy (sheep) almost entirely owned by a handful of absentee landlords.

Much of the country was owned by the Falkland Islands Company (now owned by Coalite) who had, particularly since the fall in wool prices, earned a reputation for taking more out of the country than they put in. "The whole place had suffered benign neglect for years," says Simon Armstrong of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation.

By no stretch of the imagination could that be said now. But I fear it may be too late, the economy too far gone, for this most crucial of battles to be won. However, Armstrong, brought in to run the FIDC from the highly successful Highlands and Islands of Scotland prototype, is not short on optimism: "We now have to catch up on every front. It is a massive task and we have only very limited resources - £4 million over the next two and a half years - but I am sure we can do it," he says.

The MPA will be the fulcrum of much he will achieve. He anticipates a reasonable growth in tourism - both for the wildlife of the islands themselves and as a staging post and take-off point for tours of the Antarctic.

But tourism requires hotel space. There is none - apart from the soon-to-be-expanded Upland Goose in Stanley - nor is there the labour to build it. And anyway, will enough people want to pay thousands to see the wildlife of the Falklands to make the necessary development worthwhile?

Similarly with fishing. The islanders have never exploited - hardly even for their own consumption - the plentiful supplies around their coast. A trawler is now researching exactly what fish are where - with a view to developing an industry with markets not only at home but on the restaurant tables of the Northern Hemisphere.

Farther out, Russian and Polish trawlers catch millions of tons of fish a year from within a 200-mile radius of the islands. Some islanders say they should be stopped and an indigenous industry set up to exploit these vast reserves. But who is to enforce the ban? Who is to man the boats? Who is to pay for them? Where are they to live?

It will take a miracle to turn the economy round. Mr Armstrong sees hope in small beginnings - the major land-owning monopolies are slowly giving ground. Smaller farming holdings are springing up.

"We are financing up to 50 per cent of any business we think worthy of either establishment or expansion," he says. "That includes, for example, a taxi business in Stanley, a dairy, an agricultural co-op and a sheepskin processing plant."

It will take a miracle to turn the economy round. There is hope - major landowning monopolies are giving ground

Some parcels of land of a mere 50 acres have been sold off around the MPA. A firm specializing in hydroponics is discussing a project which could feed 2,500 men with a small salad each day. (At present all salad materials come from the UK and you can tell the newcomers by the way they eat their paté and leave the lettuce.) Most important of all, people want to settle in the Falklands.

The population has increased by a net 100 since 1982. Says Sir Rex Hunt: "Thirty-nine of those are islanders returning, the rest are newcomers - some of them have served here in the forces and decided they want to stay here and live."

But the population will have to increase a lot more and with a lot more women of childbearing age if the place is to become viable. Armstrong believes there will have to be about three times more people in the next 10 years. It will have to become a sizeable enough to support the sort of service industries that even a tiny Scottish village would regard nowadays as commonplace.

Nowhere is this last and, in many ways the real battle of the Falklands, being contested more strongly than at Fox Bay West on West Falkland. The trawler is based there as is the island's first wool processing plant.

A year ago the population was a mere seven. Now it is 30. I spent a day with Richard and Griselda Cockwell, who are setting up the wool mill. They are warm, generous people determined to make a go of their £100,000 project. They have 35 years between them on the islands and are keenly aware - as is their bank manager - of the risks.

But as Richard pointed out, it is folly for a country to be knee

deep in wool, where soldiers buy 5,000 sweaters a year at £10 each with the British Forces Falkland Islands emblem on them - and every one is made in Scotland.

"We have to, we must, turn that round. Or there is no hope," said Richard.

"We have to create the wealth here and the jobs here. This country was financially independent until 1981. We want it to be that way again - except for the military presence which we could never pay for. We can't go on either not exploiting our natural resources properly or exporting the raw materials and letting someone else make the profits out of developing them."

When I returned to Stanley and went to buy a toy penguin for my daughter, I found that they too are all made in the UK. That is what is wrong with the Falklands economy and one can only hope that Simon Armstrong and the rest are not too late to put it right. Because if they are, all the rest of it will have been a total waste.

TOMORROW
Profile of Mark Elder
music director
of the English
National Opera

Who wants to be a millionaire? Wham! Do. Meet the new model pop stars: two parts musician to one part marketing manager. They are George Michael and Andrew Ridgely, otherwise known as Wham! They were the teeny boppers' choice at Christmas - far outstripping Boy George or Frankie Goes to Hollywood.

Are they rebellious in the Rotten mould, or androgynous like the Boy? No. Do they espouse radical causes or display the Hurricane Higgins-style pallor of the habitual nightlifer? No. George and Andy are tanned, articulate young professionals who happen to have chosen popular music as their way of life. Their hair is neatly groomed, their smiles are happy. They might have followed their fathers into business (George's is a restaurant and Andy's is an executive at a camera company) but the money wouldn't have been as good and the girls wouldn't have been fewer.

All in all, it's a sensible career choice for two boys from the north London suburbs. They are independent. They pull their own strings, write their own songs and produce their own records - no exploitation here by managers or record companies. They like it like that.

George says: "It would be pointless to pretend that you didn't care about being healthy and wealthy and pretending to be living off the dole. We don't feel at all ashamed about our success." Wham! positively celebrate their affluence as their videos take them from penthouse, to pool to yacht, to jet. Being rich is part of their image.

Some critics think such a display of wealth is offensive at a time of high unemployment. What the "kids on the street" need, they suggest, is some good old radical rock'n'roll. But that is not what they appear to want. Charts are universally dominated by blatantly commercial, conformist pop. There is no demand for popular rebel music.

Wham! are at the very forefront of conformity, but even they are a little surprised at the fact that everyone else is close behind. "The rebelliousness could never come from us," says George, "because we come from middle-class backgrounds. But I can't understand why there isn't more rebellion around. After all, things have never been worse."

Of course it is because things are so bad that Wham!, who market themselves as conspicuous images of success, are so popular. Kids today cannot afford

Wham! the boys who are a hit with everyone



Andrew Ridgely and George Michael, rich and getting richer

to be rebellious. That has always been the prerogative of the affluent.

Wham! are happy to have it known that they live at home, even though they could afford fabulous places of their own. Family domesticity is good for the image.

Wham's manager, Simon Napier-Bell, has been around since 1965, when he managed the Yardbirds and wrote *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me* for Dusty Springfield. He knows what he's talking about in the teenybop game. "Kids look at Wham! and say, 'I'd like to be like that'. Parents look at them and say, 'I'd like my children to be like that'. When those two generations come together you have mammoth acts. It's very rare. In England only The Beatles have ever done it before."

Wham! who always wear neat clothes for publicity shots, dress on stage to please all tastes. Napier-Bell says: "They've completely crossed the working-class/middle-class divide, mainly because they're middle-class, but were shovelled on to the dole queue like everyone else. And that's a pretty classless situation."

Wham! made their name with singles like *Wham Rap and Young Guns Go For It*, which were about teenage life on social security. But they were not

indictments of capitalist society. Far from it. They were energetic guides to being broke and having fun.

And for those affluent suburban children receiving pocket money from their working parents - still 85 per cent of the population - Wham's go-getting is simply an apt reflection of their lives.

Napier-Bell has an interesting explanation for the utter shamelessness of it all. Observing that George's father is Greek Cypriot and Andrew's born in Egypt, he says: "They're both first-generation immigrants and the children of immigrants always see success in commercial terms. They don't get involved in the whys and the wherefores." The boys disagreed, saying they both feel entirely English and that their ambitions are more than material. "I credit myself with a bit more intelligence than that," remarks George. But there's no denying his ambition.

"George decided very young that he wanted to be a pop star and so he sat down and decided how to do it. If you like, Wham! is George Michael's solo career," says Napier-Bell. George Michael has a genuine love of pop music and his ability to reproduce any pop sound or effect that takes his fancy is uncanny. Last year he wrote three

number one singles, which have moved from disco, bubblegum, via lush balladizing to a marvellous pastiche of mid-70s Elton John and Kiki Dee pop soul. The latest record, *Last Christmas*, made for David Cassidy. Napier-Bell joyfully describes it as "a sensational good pop record, and absolutely gucky."

But then he is apt to wax a little lyrical - gushing about the effect George and Andy's friendship has upon their marketability. "It's that extraordinary relationship like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid that has been done so many times in movies, but never before in pop music. The two guys who are incredibly close - they're obviously straight and virile, but they're still more interested in each other than anyone else. At the end of the movie one's got the girl and the other's married, but they still ride off together."

With George being such a creative spirit, no one around Wham! tries to deny that. Andrew Ridgely's role is largely ornamental. He's there for the girls to love and for George to lean on when the whole ghastly business of being a pop star becomes too much to handle. But says Napier-Bell, "Andrew is an essential element in Wham! Whatever George is now was instigated by Andrew. When they met Andy was the boy that George wanted to be. He was the boy in the class who was the naughtiest. He dominated it."

That in itself is enough for Wham's fans. They don't particularly care whether Andy plays just so long as he's in the pictures. The notion of musician-ship as a quality to be admired for its own sake, in the way that Eric Clapton or Keith Emerson sold it to the 1970s, is as dead as the notion of revolt.

Still, George may yet develop into a writer of songs that are more than merely catchy. He is typically rational about his prospects. "I think that the melodies will probably stay commercial, but we'll progress in terms of song structure. I would like our records to start forming more character of their own instead of using old influences."

Napier-Bell has the boys' futures planned. "I would say that Wham! have two or three more albums and a couple of incredible movies in them. George might become a substantial actor. Andrew could be more of a character actor."

"As for Napier-Bell... well, he would make a wonderful game show host."

David Thomas

Dotty dates for dreary diaries

Have you noticed yet how boring your new diary is with entries such as "Canadian Bank Holiday" and "Early Closing Day in Lagos"? Brighten it up with this exclusive list of fun stickers! Just cut them out and put them anywhere...

First Sunday after Placidio Domingo

Calendars go back 100 years in Albania

Halley's Comet lands in Wall

Grandfather's Day

Milton Keynes marathon starts

Second Sunday after Anathema

Open Day, Cheltenham GCHQ

Mole-shooting starts, Whitehall

Septuagesima's Day

Last entries for Guinness Book of Records Laziest-man-in-world entry, 1978

Third Sunday after Sandinista

Russell Harty look-alike day, Brighton

30th anniversary 1st M1 pile-up

Annual burning of Belgrano Log, Ottery St Mary, Devon

Bash-a-Pom Day, Melbourne

Dad's New Girl-Friend's Day

Fourth Sunday after Bossa Nova

Milton Keynes marathon ends

Fourth anniversary of Sizewell Inquiry: Street party, bonfire, all-night disco and ceremonial burning of Ms Thatcher (effigy)

moreover... Miles Kington

Fifth Sunday after Aspidochelone

Inter-City returns to Bath for valid on 9.05 am

Milton Keynes marathon restarts (after steward's inquiry)

Invention of car kilometer rewording (1922)

Mum's "Accountant's" Day

Day of Miraculous Conception of Germane Greer, Australia

China goes metric, AD 830

Daughter's Friend Upstairs' Day

Nothing happened today, Thank God

Sixth Sunday after Lepidoptera
Milton Keynes marathon M1 pile-up

American Constitution first enters best-seller lists, 1780

David Attenborough named "Endangered Species", 1975

Son's Best Friend at School's Day

Milton Keynes Marathon Inquiry opens

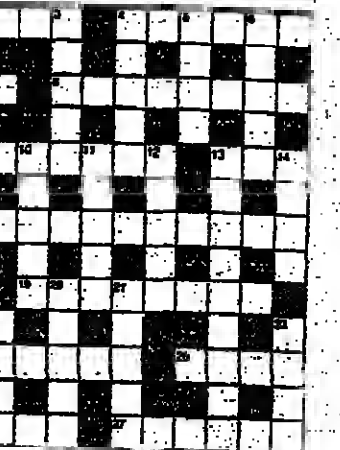
Seventh Sunday after Galtieri

Those Nice People we met in Mallorca's Day

Nothing happened today, Thank God

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 539)

ACROSS
1 Portray (6)
2 Spice grinder (6)
3 Bucket (4)
4 Forbidding atmosphere (8)
5 Violate (8)
6 Hardly any (3)
7 Chris's judge (7,6)
8 Place (3)
9 Grass rick (8)
10 Flowerpot container (8)
11 Account (4)
12 Fatal (6)
13 Viz (6)
14 Thin person (4)
15 Unpleasant (5)
16 Put out (5)
17 Saffrage (9)
18 Having wings (5)
19 Utiliser (5)
20 God's anniversary (3)
21 Cast off (4)
22 Kill (4)



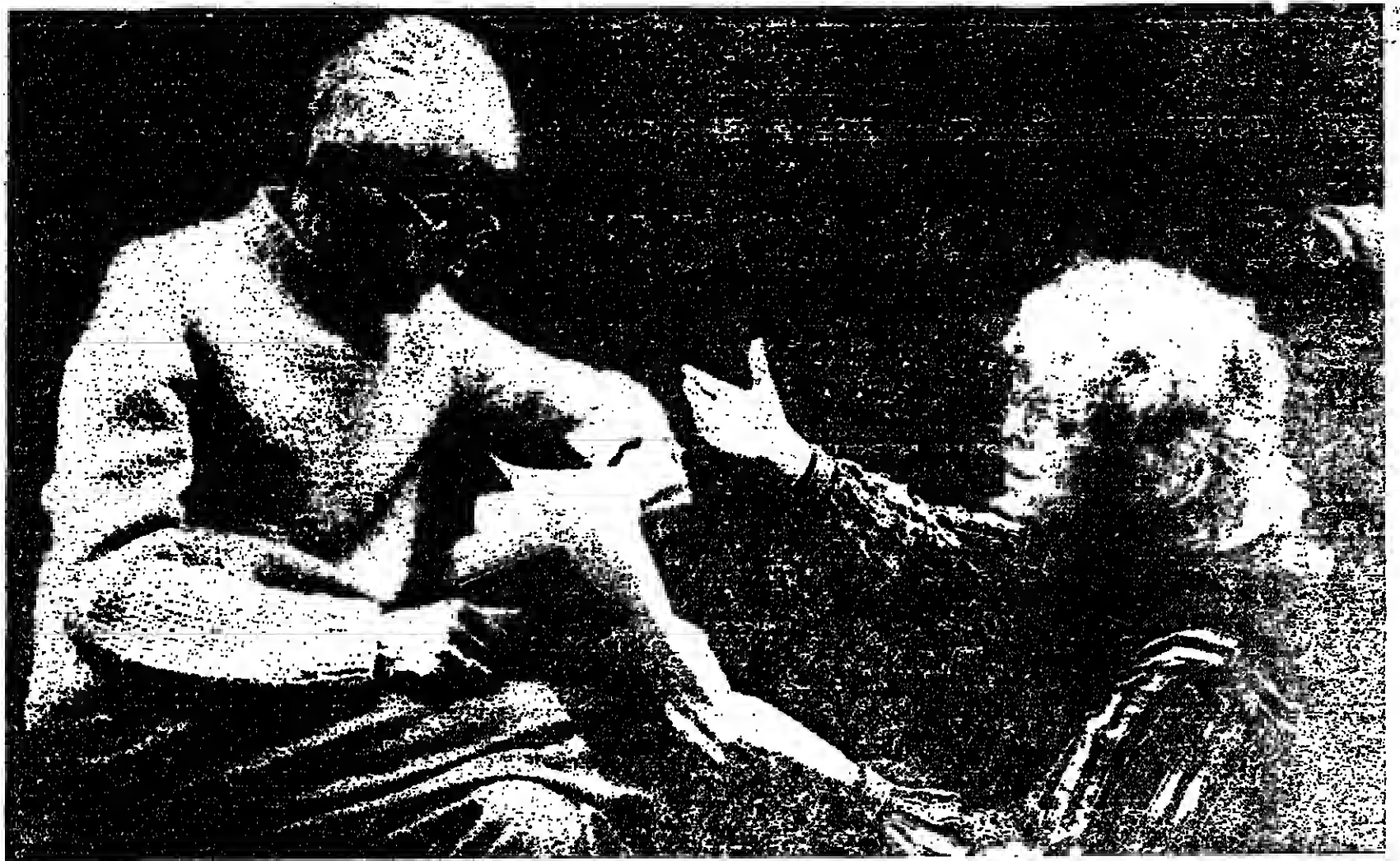
DOWN
1 Illegal drug (4)
2 Disrespectfulness (9)
3 Musical pieces (5)
4 Car crash (5)
5 Identical (4)
6 Shaping machine (5)
7 German state (5)
8 Unpleasant (5)
9 Put out (5)
10 Saffrage (9)
11 Having wings (5)
12 Utiliser (5)
13 God's anniversary (3)
14 Cast off (4)
15 Kill (4)

SOLUTION TO No 538

ACROSS: 1 Frigid 5 Dime 8 Hippy 9 Unearth 11 Falsetto 13 Ode 15 Old wives tales 17 Idem 18 Espresso 21 Rummage 22 Haiku 23 Grog 24 Scarf
DOWN: 2 Repel 3 Gay 4 Dauntlessness 5 Deam 6 Marital 7 Chauffeur 10 Hocus pocus 12 Emu 14 Star 16 Dreamer 19 Skiff 20 Pape 22 Her

Billie and Beckett—a unique double act

Billie Whitelaw (left) famous for parts in Samuel Beckett's plays, tells Sally Brompton about her relationship with the playwright which has led to her being asked to lecture on his work in America



Once I've heard Beckett say it — just once — I've got it in my head the music of what he wants... Billie Whitelaw with the playwright

Billie Whitelaw first met Samuel Beckett at the National Theatre 20 years ago.

The actress was about to begin rehearsing Beckett's *Play* in which a husband, wife and mistress are imprisoned in urns, tonelessly reciting the story of their relationship in blinding spotlights. Beckett was there to supervise the direction by his close friend, the late George Devine.

Billie's first impression of the playwright was of "someone sitting quietly in the corner not missing a trick. He seemed to have cars all over his body." What Beckett thought about Whitelaw has never been revealed, but the meeting heralded the start of one of the theatre's most unlikely friendships.

"I don't know what it was but I just gravitated towards Sam — as well as George Devine and his lady Jocelyn Herbert," says Billie. "Whenever I was in the company of the three of them I felt I was under an umbrella of love." She adds: "My relationship with Beckett has become one of the most important relationships in my life."

So close has she grown to the self-effacing intellectual, and so frequently has she interpreted his writing on stage, that Billie Whitelaw has become regarded as an expert on the Man and his Work. She views that role with some dismay.

"It worries me that I'm being put into the wrong slot, the wrong pigeon hole. I find that academics are talking to me and writing to me with a certain amount of respect of the wrong sort."

I have to write back to them saying 'I'm afraid you've got me in the wrong category. I may act in Beckett's plays but actually I don't know what they're about.'

Nevertheless, she has accepted an invitation to fly out to California on Saturday to talk about Beckett to the students at Santa Barbara University.

When Billie told Beckett about the invitation the Irishman roared with laughter. "How the hell can I explain to people what your stuff is about?" she demanded. "I don't know what it's about, although I can feel what it's about."

"Well, Billie," said Beckett, "you can tell them the author doesn't know what the hell it's about either."

They make an improbable pair, the 78-year-old Nobel Prize-winner who has been described as 'everything from a genius to a madman, and the vivacious blonde actress, nearly 30 years his junior, who never reads books or goes to the theatre and had never even

heard of Samuel Beckett before being asked to do *Play*.

"I think I amused him because I'm such a chatterbox," she says. "He finds me a touch of light relief. I never sit down and talk to him earnestly about his work and therefore I think he finds it fairly easy being in my company. I assume that's what it is, because there's no way I could even begin to communicate with him on an intellectual level."

What they share is a sense of humour and an acute sensitivity. "Sometimes I feel I was born with a protective layer missing," says Billie. "And I do weep at things. I do think there's something very wrong in a world where half the population is starving and the other half is going to spend £100 a day for the privilege of being given a glass of lemon juice to try to lose weight."

It is not something she needs to discuss with Beckett. "He

He makes me realise what a shallow person I am

knows how I feel. He's too aware of the pain that is around in the air. You can see that from his work. He's an extremely sensitive man."

It is a sensitivity which, according to Billie Whitelaw, frequently interferes with his creativity.

"I shunt at him. I get very cross with him. He's too kind. Any bloody fool can get a letter from Sam Beckett by writing to him. Whereas I write one letter a year. He must write hundreds of letters a week. How the hell he ever gets down to doing any work I don't know."

And there are so many people around him that sort of grab bits of him. No wonder he's thin. Whenever I write to him I put in bold letters underneath — 'THIS LETTER DOES NOT REQUIRE A REPLY'."

It is perhaps the fact that she is one of the few people in Beckett's life who demands nothing of him that is the basis for their friendship. Besides, Beckett has always had an eye for the ladies and Billie Whitelaw is striking, a slight, slender figure with a cloud of blonde hair, her pale face dominated by heavy-rimmed spectacles.

Her own life has been a patchwork of triumphs and disasters, a seemingly endless test of her guts and determination. Neither has ever been found wanting.

Her early days were spent mainly as a wartime evacuee, being sent away from her home and family in Coventry. "The over-riding emotion in my childhood was fear," she recalls, "the fear of being sent to various places with a rucksack on my back."

Her father, an electrician, died when she was a child. Billie fell into acting at about 10 when her mother sent her to the Bradford Civic Playhouse to cure a chronic stutter. She went on to play in children's hour dramas on BBC radio, in northern rep, then years of television, finally graduating into award-winning films such as Albert Finney's *Charlie Bubbles* and the serious theatre opposite such figures as Olivier, an unnerving experience for a totally untrained actress.

Her marriage, at 18, to actor Peter Vaughan, ended in divorce.

There followed years of personal unhappiness. "I just couldn't work out what the hell we were all here for. I just couldn't get the hang of it at all." She sought the answer initially in a series of "most unsuitable affairs" which depressed her even more and eventually drove her into considering becoming a nun. But after spending a few days with some Benedictine nuns in Warwickshire — "just to see it out really" — she decided that it was not for her.

It was not until she met her present husband, playwright Robert Muller, and gave birth to their son, Matthew, now 17, that it "all slotted into place".

Even so, she hates marriage as an institution. "I think it's totally unnecessary. We got married because it was a legal obligation to protect Matthew, but if you have a child you've made a commitment anyway. If you're living under the same roof as someone you've made a commitment. To be absolutely honest, when we move from our present house, I'm going to suggest to Robert that I would far rather we got a place we could visit me, which I think would be much nicer and more interesting."

Ironically, it is similar to the manner in which Beckett and his wife, Suzanne, chose to live in Paris after their marriage in 1961, according to his biographer, Dr Deirdre Bair. "Visitors to his quarters were sometimes astonished to discover that in the apartment they communicated by telephone — each with a different listing," wrote Bair of the Becketts.

"I would like to think that a bit of Sam has brushed off on to me," admits Billie. "But I could never have his integrity. Being with him and knowing him makes me realise what a shallow person I am. I am totally self-centred. He has made me very much aware of my own desperate, huge inadequacies."

She has appeared in all his female roles, nearly always directed by the man himself. Only once, when she was doing *Rockaby*, was Beckett not present — "so he used to ring me up two or three times a week to discuss it and then just say the lines down the phone to me."

"Once I've heard Beckett say it — just once — I've got it in my head the music of what he wants."

Beckett's demand for perfection drove Billie into a fit of hysterics, much to the playwright's alarm. What he did not know was that besides struggling with the intricacies of the role, Billie was also fighting to save the life of her five-year-old son, who was critically ill with meningitis.

Ten years later, in the summer of 1982, the drama was re-enacted when Robert Muller suffered four massive heart attacks within 48 hours while they were holidaying in the south of France. Once again, it was Billie's devotion and refusal to give up or give in that restored him to health.

"I don't like being beaten," admits Billie. "I don't like being beaten by fear or by a part that's

getting the better of me or even by not being able to take the cork out of a wine bottle. I will go on and on and on until I get that damn cork out."

It is an attitude that is crucial when it comes to interpreting the works of her mentor. And, despite remaining in total ignorance as to the meaning of his writing, she probably under-

stands the man as well as anyone.

"Of course he talks about himself," she says, surprised that one should find it necessary to ask. "He tells me how he's feeling, what his problems are, the things that are driving him up the wall. We talk about the weather and football and my family, and sigh about various things that we think are rather sad."

It is certainly not for the money. "I think by comparison with most actors of my standing I'm fairly poor," she says. "I always seem to do things that don't get paid very much

money — like plays by Samuel Beckett."

Nor does she share the fervent reverence that Samuel Beckett inspires in his earnest devotees. Indeed, she hates it for the pressure it inflicts on her friend. "I think Sam finds it exhausting. He's badgered right, left and centre and, of course, as always happens, it's usually the wrong people who get to him. He's not a young man and he does tire easily, and he seems to be surrounded by vultures."

For that reason, Beckett finds her company all the more refreshing. She recalls a joke shared, when the playwright decided to insert the word "lacrosse" in one of his plays "just because he liked the sound of it and because it conjured up the image of the cross".

"Oh, God," said Beckett as he scribbled it in. "I'm sure he's going to be written about this."

FRIDAY

Portrait of a new stylish literary family

Fishing for a perfect soup

It is a myth that it is necessary to find the right kinds of Mediterranean fish in order to make a Marseillaise, Vicoise or Corsican fish soup. Simply because the fishermen of those parts catch a great many bony rock fish for which no more pleasing fare than soup is possible, is no reason to buy the line that fish soup cannot be made without them.

Goodness knows, the cooks of those parts earn full marks for trying to find other uses for these well-armed fish. Take the red mullet *mulus surmuletus* which is known right across the south of France as *rouget de roche* and served in some pomp with steamed potatoes. I have to confess that I do not understand why these puny little things are one of the most prized fish in the Mediterranean.

So here is my revised formula for fish soup in the Mediterranean manner. Whatever fish you choose, avoiding oily varieties such as herring and mackerel, clean but do not fillet them. The bones and skins are important to the flavour of the soup.

A Taste of Cordon Bleu Cookery
Practical Cookery Classes
The Cordon Bleu Cookery School announces the start of a new programme of short courses for the cook-ho-ho-ho. Courses range from a half or one day a week course for 6 weeks to a concentrated 1 week introductory or advanced course. Classes are small to ensure individual attention. The courses vary to suit everyone from the professional cook to the housewife who wants to cook well for family and friends. For further details, please contact:
The Cordon Bleu Cookery School, 114 Marylebone Lane, London W1. Telephone: 01-937 3293.



Shona Crawford Poole

Living in central London it is quite often possible, now that fish is becoming fashionable, to buy all the necessities and necessities one wants for an authentic *soupe de poissons*. Both the wet fish shops in my local High Street have recently forked out for improvements and one has started selling seaweed, which is a sure sign that things are looking up. None the less, fresh fish supplies are always erratic, and on a day when I had set my heart on cooking fish soup I made it with all the wrong fish and it was right. That batch included a piece of turbot — and extra-ordinary surplus from another dish — but the rest of the fish were cheaper, locally caught varieties, and some very inexpensive frozen roulets.

Soupe de poissons
Serves six to eight
1.5 kg (3½ lb) fish, including conger eel and 1 or 2 whole fish
4 tablespoons olive oil
2 leeks, white only, sliced
1 onion, chopped
2 bulbs Florentine fennel, chopped

3 large cloves garlic, chopped
2 sticks celery, chopped
2 red peppers, seeded and chopped
900 g (2 lbs) tomatoes, fresh, roughly chopped, or tinned
Bouquet garni of parsley, bay, thyme and orange peel
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Small tin of tomato purée
Good pinch of saffron

3 litres (5 plus pints) water, including fresh fish stock if you have it
4 tablespoons pasta

Chop the fish into chunks and put them in a large pan with all the ingredients except the pasta. Bring slowly to the boil then cook the soup, uncovered for 30 minutes at a soft, rolling boil.

Work the soup through a mouli legumes or sieve very thoroughly so that plenty of the fish residue finds its way back into the soup. Reheat, check the seasoning and stir in the pasta. Essential accompaniments to *soupe de poissons* are rouille, a mayonnaise heavily and heartily flavoured with garlic and cayenne, croutons of French bread, freshly grated Parmesan cheese, and plenty of wine. It is, of course, a meal in itself.

Oxtail soup is the best of traditional winter fare. It tastes best if it is made at least a day before it is eaten. This has the added advantage of allowing the soup to become cold so that the fat can be more easily removed in its solid state.

Oxtail soup
Serves four to six
1.5 kg (3½ lb) oxtail
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
3 tablespoons dripping or oil
2 large onions, chopped
2 large carrots, chopped
2 sticks celery, chopped

2.75 litres (5 pints) beef stock or water
1 small tin tomato purée
1 bay leaf
1 sprig thyme
150ml (¼ pint) Madeira or dry sherry (optional but highly recommended)

Chop the oxtails into short lengths and season them with salt and pepper. Heat the fat in a big, heavy pan and add the oxtail. Fry it on a high heat until it is well browned. Add the vegetables and brown them too.

Pour about 600ml (1 pint) of the stock or water into the pan and continue cooking the oxtail on a high heat until the liquid has reduced to a very few tablespoons. Now add the remaining stock or water and bring the soup to the boil.

Skim thoroughly, add the tomato purée, bay and thyme, and simmer the soup for about 2½ hours, or until the oxtail is very tender. If possible, allow the soup to become quite cold.

Remove the fat. Separate the oxtail from the body of the soup. Pick the meat off the bones and chop it finely. Return the meat to the washed soup pan. Then return the liquid and vegetable to the pan as they are, or passed through a sieve (the hard way), a mouli legumes (the easy way).

Reheat the soup to boiling. Check the seasoning, and just before serving, stir in the Madeira or dry sherry.

If you have a light hand with soft dumplings (55 g (2 oz) of self-raising flour for every 30 g (1 oz) of beef suet, seasoned and mixed to a soft dough with cold water) they are an excellent addition to oxtail soup. Have the soup boiling gently. Drop in the dumplings and cook them, covered, for 10 to 15 minutes depending on their size.



In addition to some fares going up.

On 6th January 1985, some of London's Tube and bus fares were increased.

The average rise was roughly in line with inflation since the last fare change in May 1983.

However, by no means everybody is having to dig deeper in their pockets.

A new bargain One Day Bus Pass is now available and many of our most popular fares remain unchanged.

Many are staying the same.

One Zone bus and Underground tickets (which make up more than half of all journeys) stay the same.

As do most One Zone Bus Passes and Travelcards.

There is also no increase in the price of Daily Off peak Travelcards.

Or on most bus fares outside the GLC area and most children's Tube tickets.

Under 16s are better off in other ways, too. They not only have the opportunity to get a Weekly Bus Pass or Travelcard.

And several are even coming down.

But many children who currently have Child Travelcards are also finding that prices are now lower.

Tube users outside the GLC area also have something to smile about since most of their fares are less too.

For details ask at your local Underground station or Travel Information Centre or dial 01-222 1234.

FARE CHANGE FOR LONDON.

THE TIMES DIARY

A tip-off ignored

Lord Mountbatten, assassinated off Donegal in 1979, had been warned not to go to Ireland that summer by Sir Maurice Oldfield, former head of MI6. "What Oldfield might have heard, or whether he was passing on a message from others, must remain a matter for conjecture," writes secret service historian Richard Deacon in a biography of Sir Maurice out from Macdonald next month. Deacon quoted "a very, very inside source" for his information when I rang him yesterday, but would not elaborate. In the book, however, he tells how Sir Maurice - brought out of retirement after the murder to become security chief in Ulster - had to handle the "politically dangerous" subject of allegations that the CIA had been involved in the assassination. Deacon cites Enoch Powell as saying the murder was "a very high-level job" not unconnected with the nuclear strategy of the United States. He claims that Mountbatten as First Sea Lord had "secret and personal communications" with the Soviet defence ministry and was regarded as "a security risk for NATO" by American intelligence. And shortly before the murder, he points out, Mountbatten had criticised the arms race and publicly questioned US opposition to the SALT agreement. But what Sir Maurice concluded, or what he himself believed, Deacon does not say.

Sitwell's farewell

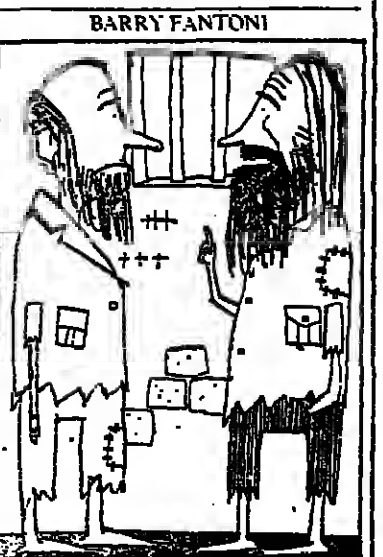
Publishers Michael Joseph possess the book of the year but which year they do not know. It is the hitherto suppressed "inside story" of the Duke of Windsor's abdication, said to contain remarkable insights into the Royal Family's politics at the time. Written by Sir Osbert Sitwell, close friend of George VI, the book is entitled *Ru Wiek* and in the years after the abdication was considered too hot to handle. In the Seventies, Michael Joseph bought the publication rights from Sir Osbert's estate, but publication has since been postponed until after the death of the 88-year-old Duchess of Windsor, out of respect for her feelings. This publisher's refusal to disclose any details from *Ru Wiek*, but admit the foreword has already been written by Sir Osbert's biographer, John Pearson. It begins: "It is a tantalising thought that this essay from beyond the grave is the final work of Sir Osbert Sitwell."

Charles Pick, who retires next month as managing director of the Heinemann group of publishers, at the age of nearly 68, yesterday announced his successor to the top job - widely believed to have been coveted by Tom Rensenthal before he left to join André Deutsch in the autumn. It is Nicolas Thompson, publishing director of Pitman's, of short-hand fame. Thompson confesses that after 14 years he still cannot write one symbol in it. "And I'm not about to learn the Heinemann system, T-line, either."

● The chairman of the MSC's Further Adult Training Programme Implementation Group, acronym Fatpig, is a Miss Bacon.

On the mend

Norman Tebbit is obviously better than we thought. Although he is not expected to speak in the Commons for some time, I learn he is to make his first political speech since the Brighton bombing at the Carlton Club on January 24. This is more than a month before his address to the Institute of Directors on February 26, previously thought to be his return engagement. His Carlton address will not be accompanied by blinding flash bulbs, however, he is speaking at the invitation of the Coningsby Club, a private dining club for ex-Cambridge and Oxford Tories who ensure everything is non-quotable.



Barry Fantoni

"Things must be bad, I've just seen Terry Waite"

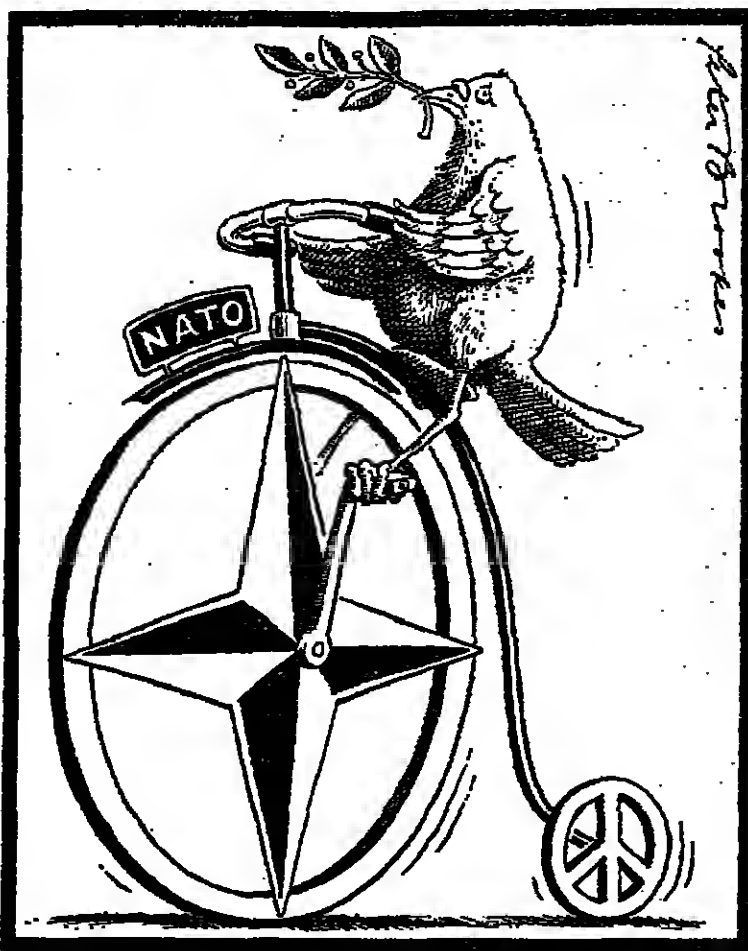
Gay abandon

The Conservative Group for Homosexual Equality which, to the embarrassment of disapproving Tories, proposed "pink" plaques to commemorate London's notable gays, may be about to withdraw its representation on the GLC's controversial Gays Working Party. The Tory representative, who has asked to remain anonymous, has ceased attending for "personal reasons", and the group's chairman, Professor Peter Campbell, tells me the rift could become permanent after the AGM next month.

PHS

Denis Healey unveils a Labour bridge across the nuclear divide

Arms: let's try a tandem approach



Peter Bunn

The realities of the nuclear arms problem have too often been confused and distorted by the argument between so-called unilateralists and multilateralists. The Labour Party has never believed it is possible to achieve its objectives by unilateral action alone, or by multilateral action alone. Nato as a whole has already committed itself to a unilateral reduction in battlefield nuclear weapons because it rightly believes this would make military sense and reduce the risk of war.

The Soviet Union recently unilaterally withdrew 20,000 troops from Central Europe for much the same reasons. Similarly, unilateral actions by Britain can help to achieve our objectives providing they do not lead to reactions by other governments inside or outside the alliance which make the situation more dangerous.

For example, Britain must unilaterally get rid of cruise missiles because they serve no military purpose and undermine public support for the alliance. We must also unilaterally cancel the Trident programme because it will cost far more than it is worth, divert military spending from more desirable objectives, and increase Britain's destructive power so much as to disturb our allies and enemies alike. Trident would also make disarmament agreement more difficult, particularly if Britain, as Mrs Thatcher intends, refuses to include Britain's strategic nuclear forces in the disarmament talks with Russia.

During Neil Kinnock's recent visit to Moscow, Labour's commitment to decommission the Polaris force was matched by Chernenko's commitment to match the dismantling of every British missile by the dismantling of a Soviet missile. So what is once unilateral commitment has now become a bilateral one. This would increase the security of both sides and create a precedent well worth pursuing.

But it would be foolhardy to take other unilateral actions without first making sure they did not provoke reactions by other members of Nato which made it more difficult to achieve the non-nuclear strategy we want. At present the balance of military forces in Europe makes it realistic to aim at a purely conventional deterrent against conventional attack. Indeed, the current gap between the Nato and Warsaw Pact forces is generally recognized to be too small to give a Soviet attack an adequate chance of success.

I believe we could strengthen the defensive capability of Nato's existing forces rapidly, and at small

cost, by certain changes in strategy and organization so as to make a conventional deterrent totally effective. But any substantial reduction in America's conventional contribution to Nato would make a non-nuclear strategy much less feasible. If the 300,000 American troops in Europe were cut, as some senators have proposed, to a third of their present number, it would be so difficult and expensive for the European countries to make up the difference, not only in manpower but also in weapons, that most Nato governments would not even try. They would simply seek new ways of making the nuclear strategy more effective, even if this increased the risk of war.

To close American bases in Britain without consultation in the first days of a new Labour government would create a serious danger that America would reduce its conventional contribution to Nato. It would be equally dangerous if the American response was simply to move nuclear bases from Britain to West Germany, where they would appear very much more provocative

to the Soviet Union than they are in Britain.

On the other hand I believe that, in intelligent negotiations, we could persuade the Americans to agree to some of the proposals in our document which they currently reject. For example, it should not be difficult to persuade them to withdraw their nuclear bases from Britain. It is doubtful whether they will need the submarine base at Holy Loch once the Trident submarines are in service. And their F111 bombers are likely to be of little value by the time of Britain's next general election. If the US regarded Britain as a valuable ally in Nato, we should be able then to persuade it to withdraw its existing nuclear bases. But if we acted in such a way as to destroy America's confidence in our loyalty as a member of the alliance, then I think the reaction, not only in the US but among our European allies, could be such as to destroy the possibility of achieving the non-nuclear strategy for Nato which we desire.

There is another problem to which the Labour Party has so far

given little attention. It is difficult to foresee any possible government in Nato, including a Labour government, wishing America to give up all its nuclear weapons while Russia still possesses a nuclear arsenal. In my opinion, Russia is bound to maintain a nuclear capability so long as China does.

China, a country of a thousand million inhabitants on Russia's ill-defined eastern frontier, now possesses a strong nuclear force. We are already having to face the problem of involving the Chinese in nuclear disarmament talks because the Russians have made it clear that they cannot ignore the Chinese factor in disarmament talks with the US. For example, they reserved the right to maintain what they regarded as sufficient SS20s to Soviet Asia facing China whatever happened in negotiations in the intermediate range nuclear forces talks about Europe. So offshore American nuclear weapons will remain necessary to deter a nuclear attack on Europe even when all nuclear weapons have been withdrawn from European soil.

I know as well as anyone that in recent years membership of Nato has imposed severe strains on its left-wing supporters in Europe. It is difficult to feel confident to an alliance if its leadership lacks wisdom and consistency, as has too often been the case under the last two American presidents. But it is difficult to see an alternative.

Neutrality would not be cheaper. Yugoslavia, one of the two European neutrals which has the power independently to determine the level of its forces - Austria and Finland are restricted by treaty - spends more of its national wealth on defence than Britain. Sweden did for many years, and the prime minister, Olof Palme, has recently seen his country's neutrality continually violated by Soviet submarines; he has had to warn his own Social Democratic Party that unilateral disarmament is just not an option for Sweden. By far the best answer, as Palme himself has argued, is to seek common security through multilateral agreements between the superpowers and their allies. This must be the overriding objective of the foreign and defence policies of a Labour Britain. We must remain in Nato, and our membership of Nato must be designed and reshaped so that we can support this objective effectively.

The author is *Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs*. Extracted from a *Foreign tract*, Labour and a World Society, published today.

Roger Boyes on the Polish show trial that threatens to get out of hand

Father Jerzy: where will the buck finally stop?



Father Popieluszko: a moral victory from beyond the grave? Right, ex-Captain Pietrowski: three optinns

altogether more sophisticated person than Pekala though wracked with a nervous facial twitch and impeded by a serious stammer, pleads guilty to kidnapping but not to murder or attempted murder. Their arguments are similar: the policemen, in the Fourth Department of the SB security service that monitored the priest's political activities, decided to teach Father Jerzy "a lesson", frightening him, forcing him to name underground contacts, perhaps compromising him in the eyes of Catholics and Solidarity supporters. They assumed that there was top level approval and when everything went awry, they stuck to obeying orders given by Piotrowski.

Piotrowski, at first cool and confident, began to have self-doubts during Chmielewski's first testimony. For the first time his head slumped on his chest, he started to glare at the young, nervous Lieutenant. This week, beginning his testimony, Piotrowski has recovered his poise. He has pleaded guilty to beating the priest with fists and baton, to dropping him in water, to kidnapping him, to attempting to

cause a car crash - but not to murder.

Many observers in the courtroom see this as a cynical manoeuvre, but what is now clear is that the ex-captain has a choice, a perilous one for the Jaruzelski government. He can decide to remain silent - during his interrogations he said little, sure that he would be rescued by his political friends - he can push much of the blame on his immediate superior, Colonel Adam Pietruszka (who is also in the dock accused of complicity), or he could disclose the involvement of officers higher up the ladder.

How deep does the rot go? The Polish authorities, by staging such a public spectacle, hope either to outflank the government's hardline Marxist opponents or to show that there is no challenge to General Jaruzelski and no conspiracy against him. Until now, the testimony of the defendants suggests high-level incompetence rather than high-level plotting. The director-general of Piotrowski's department, General Zenon Platek, asked the captain why his official car had been seen in Bydgoszcz on the day of the kidnapping. Piotrowski's reply that he had been picking mushrooms seemed to satisfy the general though Piotrowski was charged with misusing official transport.

Piotrowski gave both Pekala and Chmielewski the impression that a deputy minister was involved. Chmielewski says that Piotrowski had to seek approval from above for the mission, as did Colonel Pietruszka on one occasion. Above the colonel in the interior ministry hierarchy there is only General Platek, one of five (now six) deputy ministers and the minister himself.

The possibility of revelations about men in high places is not the only matter that is bothering the secret police. A number of officers are said to be worried that too many operational details are being made public - from relatively trivial points such as the special "W" passes that entitle agents to flaunt traffic regulations, to revelations of corruption. Above all the fact that the secret police have such an important role in relations between the Catholic church and the state is something that the ministry would not wish to be known.

Colonel Pietruszka was involved in the negotiations with the Catholic church about the possible release of the Solidarity leadership in early 1984 and, it has emerged in the courtroom, he has been planning to arrange a scholarship to the Vatican for Father Jerzy and thus remove him.

The security police - many of whom had no great respect for their colleagues in the Fourth Department and who regard the kidnap and the murder as irresponsible - seems to be worried that the trial of the four former officers will smear their service, discredit the idea that the church is a legitimate source of police interest and have a devastating effect on morale. Their fears are probably justified. The not very high standing of the police has dropped drastically and many Poles, particularly the young, regard the trial as an almost chivalric battle between good and evil.

A banner still strung to a fence of Father Jerzy's church announces: "Good will defeat evil." "Good" is written in the letters of Solidarity, red and white, "evil" in the formal newspaper print, the Communist press. The next few weeks in Torun will be decisive: moral victory for the followers of Father Jerzy, or a grubby cover-up that will do great damage - everything is still in the balance.

When down is in

New words for old, by Philip Howard

fascicle of the *OED*, which was one of the last published, in 1926, describes this idiom, which seems standard today, as colloquial. It derives it from poker: "So with the poker terms 'ante up' and 'it is up to you'." It asserts that the phrase has been in common use from c. 1913 (I like that learned or bluffing c.).

And it states that the use is an Americanism, with an example from as early as 1908: "It was 'up to him', then, as an American would put it, to say that he had done this thing." If it was necessary for the *Westminster Gazette* to quarantine the phrase in brackets, and apologize that this was an Americanism, it indicates that "up to" in this sense

is not built into the roots of Anglo-Saxon. The *OED Supplement* found an earlier example of 1896 from George Ade, the Indiana author whose books are noted for their racy use of the vernacular and their sympathetic portrayal of country characters: "Up to me - see!" It is possible that the final volume of Bob Burchfield's new *Supplement*, to be published next year, will have found an earlier example. But I guess not much earlier. Partridge agrees that the idiom comes from poker, and has nothing to add, apart from describing Ade as inimitable.

So what in the world are we up to, giving up our once racy slang from poker that has become flat, and

substituting "down to"? The phrase is clearly not from poker or any other card game. The idiomatic use of "down to" until now has been as an adverb and preposition indicating "even including the final item of a comprehensive list of persons or things", for example, the last woman, the youngest man, the last detail, the final stages, the present day.

Why have the young suddenly started to say "down to" where we all said "up to"? Ignorance, madam, pure ignorance? Is it that there is something more condemnatory and obligatory in down than up? I think it is merely an example of the constant, copy-cat chase for trendy in language, even in tiny prepositions and adverbs. The racy old poker term has begun to sound precious "up to" can carry on using it, without sounding hopelessly square - for the present, at least.

Digby Anderson

British Schools of Muddling

State school teachers cost the taxpayer £7,000 a year. How many are incompetent? Let me start the bidding at 76 per cent.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, has not named a figure but he obviously thinks there are enough dead teachers to warrant action. On Friday he confirmed that if the local authorities and teachers will not assess teacher performance, reward the able and weed out the incompetent, then he will. The National Union of Teachers, predictably, resents this. What it wants is more money for all teachers. It is certain that "only a very small minority of teachers... could be regarded as incompetent". So, are we talking about 0.5, 5, 50 or 76 per cent?

We can be sure of one thing, that even after the investigations and research we shall not know the answer. This is not because the research will be abused, although it probably will, but because the way the school system is funded and legally imposed makes it impossible to establish the number of incompetent teachers. As with other nationalised industries it is impossible to establish precise local costs and profits since the criteria for assessing these, competitive market rates, are almost wholly absent. The ignorance is compounded by having inadequate tests of achievement while insisting that all children take the same length of time to learn whatever it is that is not tested.

Consider, in contrast, our admirable driving instructors. They negotiate with the learner-customer a precise number of hours of tuition at a precise price. They teach certain skills which are tested. "League tables" are to be published showing the pass rate of each individual on the register of Approved Driving Instructors. Unlike teachers, the instructors never seek to excuse their failures by bemoaning the social background of the learners or their refusal to practice.

The customer is given full and unqualified information. Not only can he decide which instructor is competent and which incompetent; he will be able to categorize them - hopelessly incompetent, effective but costly, successful but takes a long time, risky but quick - and choose the one who combines a high level of passes with a low number of lessons at the most reasonable price. The instructor who is competent for one customer will not necessarily be so for another, but in each case a precise judgment of competence can be made, more sophisticated and realistic than anything that Sir Keith has in mind. For although they may not be "researched", they include information about the three crucial factors, time, eventual success rate and price.

Robin Cook

Wanted: an EEC grain of mercy

Tucked away in the rear of the recent White Paper on European developments was a fascinating paragraph tabulating the number of occasions on which each member state had been referred to the European Court for infractions of EEC law. It revealed that, contrary to popular opinion, Britain has been among the more punitious offenders of its European obligations. In the 10 years since joining, Britain has been heard before the court only seven times, the second lowest figure for any member state, and very modest compared with the 27 references clocked up by France.

In truth, Britain's reputation for deficiency in European spirit appears to be based less on what we do or say than the way we say it. Large dollops of Euro-rhetoric, which we view with reserved distaste but which come so naturally to Gallic statesmen, will no doubt be dispensed tomorrow, however, when the new Commission is sworn in. Fourteen men - still no women - will each take part in an investiture ceremony in which they pledge themselves to the European ideal. Then they will find that when their predecessors cleared their desks they left behind an awesome financial crisis distinctly lacking in idealism.

The Community made it to the end of 1984 only by the expedient of inviting member states to contribute to a special whip-round to plug the gap between revenue and expenditure. The precise status of this *ad hoc* subvention is unclear. It was originally intended to be a loan, until the Court of Auditors reminded everyone that the treaty contains no provision under which the Commission might accept loans. The Treasury now delicately refers to the contribution not as a loan but as a "reimbursable advance".

The Court of Auditors was also moved to the reasonable observation that an imbalance of £1.5 billion between expenditure and revenue in 1984 was evidence of "the need for greater accuracy in the preparation of original budget estimates." The Commission's response was to furnish further evidence of this need by submitting to the European Parliament a draft budget for 1985 with a covering letter that effectively stated that it reckoned this budget contained enough revenue for the first 10 months of the year, by which time it hoped to have worked out a means of funding the last couple of months.

This is the moment at which the British government has chosen to make the positively hilarious claim that it has achieved agreement within the EEC on budgetary discipline. But cursory inspection of the relevant text reveals escape hatches. Thus the agreement can be suspended in the case of "excep-

State primary schools provide none of these. There is no final and specific test of performance, costs are only known in aggregate figures and payments and time is dogmatically fixed at a statutory six-year sentence. Incompetence can be detected only at the extreme - as spectacular and persistent teaching failure. But, when I admit I am incompetent at changing a wheel on my car I do not mean that I have never done it or could never do it under any circumstances, but that I am incompetent judged by the going rate - the competence of others.

In this everyday yet sophisticated sense a teacher is incompetent if he takes longer than others to teach his pupils to read and write or does so for higher wages than others would accept. The question is not whether there is the odd primary school teacher who is incompetent to the point of ineptitude but how many primary school teachers take excessive money and time to teach basic skills and education. Peer assessment will never establish this; it will be known only when there is a competitive source of supply and parents are free to choose schools and other sources of education. Private agencies already compete in providing specific training programmes within the Manpower Services Commission's schemes for young people. We need to know whether such agencies could teach more literacy, numeracy and other education more quickly and efficiently than schoolteachers. It costs perhaps £80,000 to put a batch of 25 children through primary school, not to mention six years of their lives. Is this a "reasonable" achievement given their eventual level of performance? Could those who are not state teachers do better in pursuit of the £80,000?

The function of markets, so education as elsewhere, is to disclose such information. To operate they should be free. It is little use asking agencies to teach to certain standards and then demand they must take six years (I have a feeling that if ever driving instruction is nationalized under Mr. Benn the first change would be to insist on attendance at a five-year polytechnic course, the second to abolish practice in favour of theory, the third to fund instruction by taxation, and the fourth to abolish the driving test, so-called driving licence).

We shall not know what can be done in education until it ceases to be a matter of statutory attendance and becomes a competition to excel in as short a time as possible and at minimum cost. Until then my bet stands at 76 per cent. It's no less, perhaps, a little more, sustainable than the NUT's cherished "very small minority". The author is Director of the Social Affairs Unit.



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TESTS OF FRIENDSHIP

The release of documents from the Public Record Office each January peels a fresh layer from the story of Britain's nuclear deterrent. Parallel to these small disclosures of high policy has come unpleasant evidence of the price which may have been paid: both in Britain and in Australia, for an early edge in the weapons race. Evidence, including an investigation by *The Times* last summer, has steadily emerged to suggest that the 12 tests which Britain conducted in Australia 30 years ago were not as "clean" of radiation risk as the official accounts would have us believe.

Eighteen months ago and after allegations about resulting ill-health among the 20,000 British servicemen involved, disputes between scientists pushed the Ministry of Defence into a belated medical inquiry. Increasing concern in Australia led Mr Hawke's government to set up a Royal Commission, which is now taking evidence in London.

The British government's approach to this question has so far been minimalist. We run the risk of insulting a fellow Commonwealth monarchy which readily cooperated in the development of our weapons, without expecting much in return. After prolonged indecision, the MoD decided to be represented before the commission and has announced that 25 witnesses are available. The commission's chairman, Mr Justice James MacClelland, has already complained that the government's fulsome assurances of co-operation have not been matched by action.

In doing so, he made an important distinction between simple freedom of access and "positive assistance in bringing to light anything of relevance which those documents might disclose". It is time that the government responded to genuine public concern with some vigorous attention to the latter task.

Both the British and, until recently, the Australian governments have adopted a defence based on the proper observance of the safety measures of the time, also claiming a wide secrecy protection for matters of military security. Gradually, the doubts and questions have eaten this away. It was revealed that two members of the Australian safety supervision committee developed profound doubts about what they had witnessed and approved. *The Times* series revealed the alarm among insiders when the wind blew the secondary fallout cloud from the 1956 test at Monte Bello the wrong way. It also disclosed that one ship, HMS Diana, had been conducting a previously un-

PROLONGING "LOW LIFE"

It would be a mistake to think of the case of Mr Derek Sage, the kidney dialysis patient, as unique. He is unusual only because his treatment was stopped after it had been begun, and because someone else has been found to start it up again. Every year in Britain several hundred kidney patients die without ever being offered treatment, even though they could perfectly well be saved in the present state of the medical art, and would be saved in almost any other country in Europe or North America. But usually doctors make a long face and explain to the patients that unfortunately their case is not suitable for dialysis or transplant. They seldom add (and no doubt it would be unkind to, though the British Medical Association's ethical code implicitly recommends it) that the patient's unsuitability may reside principally in the intractable symptom of having passed his 45th birthday.

This is offensive to all impulses of individual human compassion, and is a heavy burden on the doctors who have to make the choices imposed on them by economic constraints. The doctors' position is painful, and they should not be greatly blamed. The allocation of medical resources is an activity in which individual human compassion is easily, even necessarily, overtaken by general principles of ethics. In a position of monopoly supply of equipment, you select one patient for treatment, and you doom another: existence may be equally sweet for both.

These dilemmas would remain even if matters were adjusted to satisfy those who insist that improved administrative efficiency can free more resources for care (which it can), and those who declare that the NHS could cure more patients if it had more money (which it could). Medical technology is constantly finding new ways of keeping people alive - sometimes only just, sometimes fully robust and useful - as transplant

surgery can, at best. Heart transplants cost twice as much as kidney transplants, and liver transplants twice as much as heart transplants - and every penny spent on them is a penny less to spend on the relief of suffering less glamorous, but just as painful.

In search of an ethical foothold in these dilemmas, the hospital has fallen back on the distinction between medical and social criteria, after being unceremoniously rebuffed by the social criteria. Now it is not Mr Sage's irritating habits which caused sentence to be pronounced, but his high blood pressure. Either way, it was a glaring omission not to have consulted this out-patient's GP. But in practice there is no safe dividing-line between medical and social criteria, and a doctor who sought strictly to exclude from consideration the feelings of the children of a patient with a young family, for instance, would only be guilty of another sort of cruelty.

These are necessarily cruel decisions. Doctors are the only people qualified to make them, at the point of individual choice. But the principles that they apply and the resources that they have at their command are for society to determine. Hard cases like this one are apt to cause public sympathy to flow generously and ineffectively to and fro. Coherent policies need to be debated. In the case of kidney treatment, comparison with other countries strongly suggests that provision in Britain falls short of ordinary ideas of what is humane. It also indicates that separate renal units can provide dialysis far more cheaply than dialysis in hospital or the home. In West Germany, where such units are widespread, effective treatment is available to virtually all patients who can benefit from it, even the poor and the misfits. But Germany is a richer country prepared to spend relatively more of its wealth on medicine. In the last resort these are political priorities, which can only be determined through the political process.

Getting to grips with production

From the Secretary of the National Joint Council for the Engineering Construction Industry

Sir, I read with interest Sir Ian Morrow's comments (December 29) regarding double-shifting. As part of the new national agreement for the engineering construction industry we have recently introduced double day-shift working on the construction of power stations and oil and chemical plants where previously vast quantities of evening and weekend overtime would have been worked.

Its effect on the construction of the three major power stations currently under construction has been dramatic. All are on programme and within budget whereas previously the norm would have been overruns of two to three years with some notorious examples well in excess of this and with massive cost escalation. The Central Electricity Generating Board and the South of Scotland Electricity Board are highly delighted.

Of course there is a premium and the effect on individual productivity is not clear, but we are getting greater production. Forty per cent more men are employed but on a strict 39-hour week and with no weekend working.

An experiment with a four-day rolling shift system has just been completed on the construction of ICI's nitric acid plant at Billingham, the circumstances of which required an innovative form of working. The plant was completed within the programme and budget and in 10 months less than the previous comparable plant. ICI are also delighted.

An important point of all this is that these systems have been introduced with the enthusiastic support of the trade unions in an industry which had hitherto been notorious for its bad management-union relationships. A great deal is written about the restrictive practices of trade unions, and too little credit is given to the very positive role they play in industry.

Incidentally, we have also reduced the time lost through industrial disputes to negligible proportions.

Yours faithfully,

IVOR WILLIAMS, Secretary,

National Joint Council for the Engineering Construction Industry,

Walmar House,

296 Regent Street, W1.

January 4.

Ulster maverick

From Mr Ken Clarke

Sir, Your report of January 2 mentioned Belfast City Council's "disappointed expectation" that

Councillor George Seawright would be dismissed from the Belfast Education and Library Board by Mr Nicholas Scott, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for education in Northern Ireland.

The minister has no power to remove a member from an education and library board. A member may be disqualified in certain circumstances, but the disqualification provisions in the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 do not extend to Mr Seawright's case.

Yours faithfully,

KEN CLARKE,

Assistant Secretary,

Rathgall House,

Balloo Road,

Bangor,

Co. Down,

Northern Ireland.

January 4.

Quality of mercy

From Dr F. S. Rickards

Sir, At a time when the Jews are bringing back to their homeland Ethiopia's Falasha community, with all the great attendant problems of disease and settlement, we can't cope with one poor "illegal" immigrant and have to split up her family and drive her back to Turkey (report, January 4). What sort of a people are we?

Yours faithfully,

FRANK RICKARDS,

2 Castle Gardens,

Holt,

Clwyd,

January 4.

Year of destiny

From Mr B. A. Young

Sir, Miss Helen Corkery's search (December 31) for a new significant phrase to replace 1984 incidentally unleashes a further problem. The phrase may well be "in the new century". We shall then embark on endless disputes about whether the new century, and indeed millennium, begins in AD 2000 or AD 2001.

Yours faithfully,

B. A. YOUNG,

Clyde House,

1 Station Street,

Cheltenham,

Gloucestershire.

December 31.

Keeping Britain tidy

From Mr David Besso

Sir, All credit to London Transport for providing receptacles for litter, but does it argue a sense of humour or a lack of imagination to find the following display at Charing Cross Underground station:

National Portrait Gallery

William Shakespeare

Viscount Horatio Nelson

Lord Byron

Sir Christopher Wren

LITTER ?

Yours faithfully,

DAVID BESSO,

213 Harlesden Road, NW10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Value of a strong exchange rate

From Dr L. H. Palmer

Sir, The fall in the pound's value is not only, as you say (leading article, December 21), a signal of considerable value and almost wholly depressing significance: it is surely an unqualified disaster. (Leave alone the dollar and the Deutschmark; the pound will buy some 6 per cent in 7 per cent less than a year ago of French francs and Italian lire.)

We seem quite unable, under whatever government, to join the value-currency countries of the United States, West Germany, Japan, Switzerland, etc, and remain condemned to the token-currency group of France, Italy, Spain, etc, characterised by frequent devaluations, recurrent bouts of inflation, and high unemployment.

Of the need for a strong exchange rate to ensure low inflation and high employment there seems little awareness; instead we are obsessed by nice economic arguments that devaluation is a desirable strategy, instead of the last-ditch recourse of the incompetent.

We are now being comforted with the line that the present devaluation will sell more British goods overseas, so encouraging employment at home. The greater likelihood, as we have seen in previous exercises of the same kind, is that for good commercial reasons the prices of most British goods will remain unchanged in local currency; the main effect of the devaluation will be to increase the number of pounds obtained. These increase the profits of exporters, whose workforce quite properly demand and obtain higher wages; there is probably no better way of driving up unit costs.

The Bank of England lectures the country on the importance of keeping these low, while standing ready with the Treasury, as you report, to drop its rates at the first smile from the exchange markets. Coupled with the increased quantity of pounds being received for the same goods and services, we have the ingredients for the dismal cycle of inflation countered by restrictions on public and private spending.

We surely do not need any more lessons on the importance of keeping a strong exchange rate. One suspects that the reluctance to use interest rates in its defence has more to do with the effect on mortgages, and therefore on political popularity, than with the needs of British industry.

In either case, it is surely time we took a leaf out of the American book and considered ways of making interest payments tax-deductible. This would be a most cost-efficient

investment to make in the cause of giving the exchange rate the first priority it deserves.

Yours faithfully,

L. H. PALMER,

University of Bath,

School of Humanities and Social Sciences,

Claverton Down,

Bath,

Avon,

December 27.

Debt of honour to cab trade

From Mr P. J. Warren

Sir, In his article, "300 years of glory, loyalty and service" (December 29), Rodney Cowton rightly attributes the formation of a large part of the British Army to the efforts of James II in 1685 at the time of Monmouth's rebellion. It will certainly be a fitting occasion when those regiments concerned celebrate their tercentenary at the Royal Albert Hall on January 17.

May I venture to suggest that another group (civilian) should also be represented at the celebrations? I refer to the London licensed cab trade, which has been licensed as a body since June, 1654, and who "voluntarily" raised two hundred of horse and offered to march into the West at the time of Monmouth's rebellion and did furnish three hundred of horse at a day's warning, to carry down the artillery to Sedgemoor" (Guildhall Reference Library, 8716).

That was not the first occasion that London's hackney carriage trade had rallied to the support of the monarch. On February 11, 1637, they offered Charles I "to maintain 50 able horses and men well armed to be exercised under the command of who the king shall appoint" (State Papers Domestic, 1636-37, p. 436).

In a petition to Oliver Cromwell, early in 1654, they pointed out, "we have been from the beginning of the wars, ready to serve with our horses in the artillery train under the Lord Essex" (State Papers Domestic, 1654, p. 1091, prudently omitting that some years earlier they had made a similar offer to Charles I).

It is well documented that stage coaches, short stage coaches and the royal state coaches were all commenced by London's hackney carriage trade. As the Royal Artillery was not formed as a permanent body until May, 1716, and the Royal Horse Artillery in January, 1793, it would appear that London's hackney carriage trade also fulfilled a military role, though in effect they were civilians.

Yours faithfully,

P. J. WARREN,

8 Fishlock Court,

Paradise Road, SW4,

December 30.

Musical education

From the Director of Music, Workshop College

Sir, My attention has recently been drawn to a new set of proposals from the Nottinghamshire County Council Education Committee concerning various aspects of the relationship between independent and maintained schools in this county. Among these proposals is one "that the policy of admitting pupils from independent schools in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere into membership of the Saturday music schools, county orchestra and county concert band be discontinued forthwith".

The implications of such a proposal cannot have been thought through carefully. The education authority will not only be depriving a large number of ratepayers' children of what is surely their right (given the existence of these facilities) to specialised music tuition and performing opportunities, but also, by doing so, will drastically reduce the quality of the county's youth music-making and thereby deprive the pupils in their own schools of the opportunities that should be presented by specialised music facilities.

Alienating the independent sector will not raise standards in the maintained sector. There is no doubt that the vast majority of parents will not be persuaded by such a policy to move their children to maintained schools.

Like other independent schools Workshop College recognises that it has a duty to give what it can to the local community and takes great interest in doing so. Both sectors have a lot to give to, and learn from, each other; surely we need more, not less, encouragement to work together.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN MARCH,

Director of Music,

Workshop College,

Workshop,

Nottinghamshire.

Classical top ten

From Mr David Chesterman

Sir, Analysis of all symphonies played in London's Barbican, Royal Albert, Royal Festival and Queen Elizabeth Halls and at St John's Smith Square during 1984 shows that Mozart, with 70, has retained the lead for the second year, but only by a whisker.

Beethoven scores 69%, to which must be added an incalculable fraction representing chunks of the "Eroica" included in Carl Davis's score for the silent film *Eroica*, given at the Barbican on December 29 by the Wren Orchestra. Even straining a point, these chunks do not amount to half a symphony.

Tchaikovsky is third with 35%, Haydn and Schubert appear to be equal with 33% each, but Haydn claims priority. At a Robert Mayer concert, in which the first movement only of No 99 was scheduled, the conductor decided to give the children an idea of the second movement and played six bars of it.

Dvorak has 24, Brahms 23%, Sibelius 15, Mahler 13% and Mendelssohn 13, achieving a place in the top ten for the first time.

Beethoven No 3 was most frequently played - 14 plus the incalculable fraction.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID CHESTERMAN,

15 Shire Lane,

Charleywood,

Hertfordshire,

January 1.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 9 1959

In 1944 on the liberation of France, General de Gaulle became President of the Provisional Government. He remained so until 1946 when he retired from power, remaining, however, in the political arena from which he withdrew in 1952. In 1959 he was elected President of France and held that office until 1969. General de Gaulle died at his home at Colombey-les-deux-Etapes on November 9 1970.

PRESIDENT DE GAULLE TAKES FULL POWERS

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Jan 8

Almost exactly 13 years after he voluntarily abandoned the leadership of his country, General de Gaulle today became the first President of the Fifth Republic for a term of seven years. M. Coty, the retiring President in his farewell speech observed that "thus the foremost among Frenchmen becomes the first man in France".

President de Gaulle's first political action was this afternoon to ask M. Michel Debré to form a Government. By the evening the formation of a Government was complete. M. Debré had submitted the list of nominees to the new President and President de Gaulle had approved them and formally appointed M. Debré Prime Minister.

WIDE POWERS

No head of State under the Third or Fourth Republic ever assumed office with more power or more popular backing. Under the new constitution the President has wide authority in foreign affairs, defence and Algerian affairs, and greatly increased powers in regard to the appointment of the Government and dissolution of Parliament.

He is also the head of the French Community, the successor to the French Union, and in that capacity presides over the Executive Council of the Community, the members of which are the French Prime Minister and the heads of Governments of all the member States (i.e. most of the former overseas territories in French Black Africa).

These powers are extensive enough, and they are going to be exercised by a man who has described himself as the "guide of France", a description amply justified by the results of the referendum on the constitution, which were formerly announced today.

FAMOUS CLAIM

These gave him a majority of 79.25 per cent taking France and the overseas territories together, and the figure increased to over 90 per cent in the French African territories other than Guinea and Niger. Thus there would seem to be justification also for the General's claim, made at his famous Press conference at the height of last year's crisis, that "I am a man who belongs to no one and belongs to everyone".

The ceremony of transfer of presidential authority from M. Coty in General de Gaulle took place in the *salle des fêtes* in the Elysée Palace this morning. General Catroux, the Chancellor of the Legion of Honour, placed the gold collar of the order round General de Gaulle's neck and said "We recognise you as the guardian of our national order".

M. Coty, speaking in his slow and emphatic manner, said he was proud to have passed the torch to General de Gaulle, round whom the people of France, superior to all other men, had rediscovered their profound unity. A necessary and constructive development had just taken place, and he was convinced that now, behind General de Gaulle, France would win the supreme victory over herself.

LINKS WITH AFRICA

General de Gaulle, speaking as President for the first time, said in reply "In the majestic character of this ceremony, the renovated institutions of the Republic and the new institutions of the Community enter into force." France had suffered more in the past half century than at any other time in her history.

He emphasized the importance of the new links between France and the peoples of Africa, and said that the Algeria of to-morrow, pacified and transformed, would have a choice place in this structure, developed by her own personality and closely linked with France.

He concluded: "Long live the community, long live France, long live the Republic."

Dressing down

From The Reverend Kenneth Bradford

Sir, The correspondence about the sartorial habits of clergymen (December 20, January 3) reminds me of an incident from my curate days of 40 years ago.

I visited a couple of humble background to congratulate them on their golden wedding anniversary. Their comment was interesting. "Yes, we remember our wedding very well. The vicar had dirty boots".

Yours faithfully,

KENNETH BRADFORD,

44 Kingsmead Road,

Knightsbridge, Leicester.

Flipping one's lid

From Commander J. I. Ferrier, RN (retd)

Sir, The *queue d'enlevement* of a beret basque is provided for that purpose, and no other.

Degrees of greeting range from the *salutation Grande Esime*, in which the beret is completely removed; to the *salut d'Honorable Smith*, when the rim of the beret is not disengaged from the cranium, the dome of the headgear being lifted sharply and allowed to subside.

Yours faithfully,

J. I. FERRIER,

1 Victoria Place,

Millbay Road,

Plymouth,

Devon.

From Mr P. W. J. Carver

Sir, Most if not all uniformed organizations use the salute as a form of greeting when wearing a beret. Is there anything to stop Mr Bullock adopting or adapting this mode of respect when he meets with a lady?

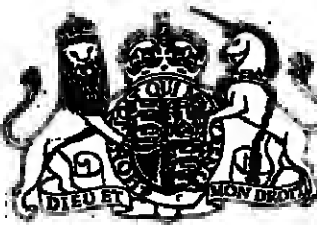
Yours faithfully,

PETER CARVER,

North Cave,

Brough,

North Humberside.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 8: Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady-in-Waiting to The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE
January 8: Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Ruth, Lady Fermoy as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Mr Michael Melbath to be High Commissioner to Zimbabwe in succession to Mr M. K. Evans, who will be taking up a further Diplomatic Service appointment.
Mrs Patsy Jorgensen to be chairman of The Church of England Children's Society.

Dinner

Shellock Holmes Society of London
The annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London was held last night at the Charing Cross Hotel with the annual dinner of the Society of Authors, the President, Mr Frank Allen, was in the chair, and the guest of honour was Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner, Metropolitan Police.

Prince of Wales's private secretary resigns

By Grania Forbes of the Press Association

Mr Edward Adeane, private secretary and treasurer to the Prince and Princess of Wales, has resigned, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.
Mr Adeane, aged 45, will relinquish his post on March 31. A palace statement said his resignation has been received with great regret by the Prince and Princess of Wales, who much appreciated the service he has given over the last six years.
The Prince of Wales has appointed him his private secretary.
No successor to Mr Adeane has yet been appointed.
Mr Adeane, formerly a leading libel lawyer who acted for the Conservative Party as well as Lady Falkender, was appointed to the Prince of Wales's staff in May 1979.

Science report

Women's sense of smell sharper than men's

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Most people's sense of smell is at its most acute between the ages of 20 and 40. The conclusion comes from measurements of the ability of 2,000 people, aged from five to 99, to differentiate between distinctive odours.
The results showed that women's sense of smell was more sharply developed than that of men. Perhaps, less surprisingly, non-smokers also had a keener sense of smell than smokers.
A comparison was made with the way other senses changed with age in the study conducted by Dr Richard Doty and colleagues of the Clinical Smell and Taste Research Centre at the University of Pennsylvania and the Department of Statistics, Wharton School, Philadelphia.
Their findings, reported in *Science*, showed that more than half of the individuals in the study, between the ages of 65 and 80 showed seriously impaired ability to detect odours.
Given those findings, it is not surprising that it is mainly elderly people who complain that food lacks flavour, and that the elderly account for a disproportionate number of accidental gas poisoning cases each year.
Dr Doty emphasizes the importance of the human sense of smell for detection of fire, dangerous fumes and polluted environments, in addition to its more enjoyable job of determining flavour and palatability of foods.
The reason for the research was to fill an important gap in knowledge: to obtain information comparable to that from studies of sight and hearing, in which standardized tests have been given to thousands of subjects of all ages.
According to the authors of the new report, it has been difficult for practical reasons to determine the thresholds of odour perception. Hence, olfactory studies have been limited to a few odours only, and the sensations they stimulate measured in a relatively small number of young subjects and old subjects.
The measurements were made with a new device, in which 40 odours are presented very rapidly in micro-encapsulated form. Instead of trying to determine the threshold at which an odour was recognizable, the subjects had to give a list of those identified from the mixtures.
The difference between sexes is present within all age categories, including the ages before puberty, casting doubt on the idea that sex differences in odour perception are due to circulating gonadal hormones.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. S. Pousonby and Miss L. Watson
The engagement is announced between Rupert, second son of Sir Ashley Pousonby, Bt, and Lady Martha Pousonby, of Woodstock, Oxfordshire, and Amanda, elder daughter of Mr Michael Colvin, MP, and the Hon Mrs Colvin, of Tangle House, Andover, Hampshire.
Mr L. A. Pousonby and Miss N. J. Guy
The engagement is announced between Luke, third son of Sir Ashley Pousonby, Bt, and Lady Martha Pousonby, of Woodstock, Oxfordshire, and Nicola, younger daughter of General Sir Roland and Lady Guy, of Sturminster, Dorset.
Mr A. Derrin and Miss M. A. Watson
The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs Z. Derrin, of Bromley, London, and Maddie Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Watson, of Haddon, Humberside.
Dr S. J. F. Goodison and Dr I. K. Temple
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr Patrick Goodison, of Hammersmith Terrace, and Mrs Angus Hewitt, of Engham, Cheshire, and Karen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Victor Temple, of Stourton, Shropshire.
Mr M. R. Haggard and Miss H. L. Vilkovich
The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mrs J. Haggard, of Wallington, Surrey, and Mr R. G. R. Haggard, of Hamble, Hampshire, and Helen Louise, second daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Vilkovich, of Purley, Surrey.
Mr M. B. Holland and Miss S. C. Sharp
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs M. B. Holland, of Lower Heston, Wiltshire, and Susan, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs A. H. Sharp, of Disley, Cheshire.
Dr G. T. Hunsby and Miss J. L. D. Nedderman
The engagement is announced between Guy, younger son of between Dr G. T. Hunsby, of South Shields, and Jenny, only daughter of Dr and Mrs R. M. Nedderman, of Cambridge.
Mr S. Keeble and Miss V. Innes-Smith
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Commander and Mrs P. R. Keeble, of Curridge, Hampshire, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Innes-Smith, of Worsworth, Derbyshire.
Mr J. L. M. Bart and Miss H. M. Baldwin
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. C. Bart, of Chislehurst, Kent, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. C. Baldwin, of Wokingham, Berkshire.
Mr F. J. R. Catford and Miss C. L. Sample
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs J. R. Catford, of Lindfield, Sussex, and Clare, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. C. L. Sample, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
Mr D. N. Christie and Miss A. J. Carruthers
The engagement is announced between Denis, elder son of Mr and Mrs G. Christie, of Stellenbosch, Cape Province, and Alison Jayne (Tilly), only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Carruthers, of Brynston, Transvaal.
Mr P. D. W. Coulson and Miss V. Lachkov
The forthcoming marriage is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mrs Pamela Phenix, of St Martin's Vicarage, Cambridge, and Veronica, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Stefan Lachkov, of The George Hotel, Shipston-on-Strour, Warwickshire.

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Mr R. J. Martin and Miss E. Ellison
The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs Derek J. Martin, of The Old House, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, and Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Eard Ellison, of Houston, Texas, United States.

Mr D. J. Marley and Miss S. R. Christodoulou
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mr and Mrs D. J. Marley, of Heston, Cheshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A. R. J. Christodoulou, of Wellington, Somerset.

Mr J. W. Morton and Miss E. C. Green
The engagement is announced between William, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. R. S. Morton, of Drayton, Warwickshire, and Ellen, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs J. W. Morton, of Tanworth-in-Arden, Warwickshire.

Birthdays today

Major D. S. Allhusen, 71; Sir Rudolf Bing, 83; Mr George Buchanan, 81; Sir John Buckley, 72; Miss Simone de Beauvoir, 72; Miss Doreen, 73; Admiral Sir Gus Grant, 85; Father Benedict Green, 61; Mr Terry Hands, 44; Mr David Holbrook, 62; Sir Glyn Jones, 77; Mr Richard Nixon, 72; Admiral Sir Frederick Parham, 84; Mr Ralph Dabbs, 83; Mr John H. West, 76; Miss Susannah York, 43.

US architects honour former Times writer

Mr James Richards, architecture correspondent of *The Times* from 1947-71, has been named as an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. His investiture will take place in June.
Mr James was also editor of the *Architectural Record* for 34 years.

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Latest wills

Mr Francis Joseph Templeman Mew, of Cude Green, Isle of Wight, left estate valued at £1,071,811 net.

Meeting

Travel Luncheon Club
An annual meeting of the Travel Luncheon Club will take place at the Dorchester Hotel on Saturday March 27. Junior members will take place at the meeting. The club's chairman, Mr J. P. Travel, was elected chairman for the forthcoming year. There was a full attendance of members.

Allhallows School

Left Term at Allhallows School, Devon, begins today and ends on Wednesday, March 27. Junior scholarship examinations will take place in the week beginning March 3. The closing date for applications is February 11. Interviews for sixth form places will take place on March 15/16. The closing date for applications is February 23.

St Audries School

Spring Term begins today. The confirmation service will take place in Wells Cathedral on Friday, March 8, at 3.00, candidates being confirmed by the Right Rev. J. M. Bicknell, the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Half term is from February 7 to 12 and the exact after the confirmation service. The all-weather hockey pitch should be ready for use by the end of January. Term ends on Wednesday, March 27.

Howell's School

Spring Term begins today at Howell's School, Dorset. Scholarship examinations will take place at the school from January 30 to 31. Half term is from February 15 to 19 and the Bishop of St Asaph will officiate at the confirmation service on Saturday, February 23. Term ends on March 27.

St Leonards School, St Andrews

Spring Term begins today and ends on Wednesday, March 27. Half term will be from Friday, February 15, until Tuesday, February 19. The entrance scholarship examinations and interviews will take place on Saturday, March 2. Applications must be received by the headmaster not later than January 31. The senior drama society will perform *As You Like It* on Tuesday, March 26.

Parliament this week

Commons: Today 12.30: Education, Transport, Health, and Social Security. Tomorrow 12.30: Education, Transport, Health, and Social Security. Wednesday 12.30: Education, Transport, Health, and Social Security. Thursday 12.30: Education, Transport, Health, and Social Security. Friday 12.30: Education, Transport, Health, and Social Security.

OBITUARY

LIEUT-GEN SIR BRIAN HORROCKS

Dashing wartime commander

Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, who died on January 4 at the age of 89, was one of the most successful and well liked commanders of the Second World War. Forced into early retirement from the army by his wounds he had received in battle he was then able to use his personality to convey on television to a younger generation and to those who had taken part in them, the stress and strain of wartime military operations.

"Horrocks" to all the fighting men with whom he came in contact, was an outstanding soldier. He came into his own, and showed his real genius, as Commander of a corps, the highest tactical command in battle, during the Second World War.

Son of Colonel Sir William Heaton Horrocks, KCMG, CB, Brian Gwynne Horrocks was born on September 7, 1895, educated at Uppingham and the RMC, Sandhurst, and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment in 1914. Fighting with his regiment in the opening battles of the First World War he was unlucky enough to be taken prisoner in October, 1914, and to spend the rest of the war in captivity. Soon after his release in 1918 he saw active service again, fighting in Russia against the Bolsheviks in 1919, and in November of that year, was wounded and won the MC.

Between the wars his career followed a normal pattern - regimental duty, a course at the Staff College, Staff appointments - but he showed his quality in another field by representing Britain in the Paris Olympiad of 1924 in the Pentathlon. However, his ability, dynamic personality, tactical flair and love of soldiering were marking him as a man to watch. The years in captivity had failed to hold him back or dull his edge. It was as a member of the Directing Staff of the Staff College, to which he was appointed in 1933, that he first showed his real prominence and began to exercise a marked influence on students and fellow directors.

Tactics was his real love and it was a disappointment to him to be put in charge of staff duties, but no one would have guessed it. All who were fortunate enough to sit under him will never forget him facing his audience in the Rawlinson Hall, with his characteristic cross-legged stance, selling his subject in his lucid, forceful and witty style.

The outbreak of war saw him championing at the bit, but it was not until April, 1940 that he was called to France to command his own regiment in General Montgomery's 3rd Division. He fought it back from the river Dyle with distinction and finally in June, and just before the evacuation, he was promoted to command the 9th Infantry Brigade of the division.

He stayed with his brigade in England until February, 1941, when he was sent to the staff for a short period as BGS of a corps and was then promoted and given command of 44th (Home Counties) Division. This and the command of 9th Armoured Division which followed, occupied him in England until August, 1942, when his real call came. General Montgomery, assuming command of the 8th Army in the Western Desert, asked for him to command the 13th Corps.

The level of corps command, that dividing line between tactical control and strategic allocation, gave full scope to his gifts. His flair for tactics, understanding of the fighting man and what he faced, his capacity to "feel the battle", his gift for personal command, were not wasted in too rare an atmosphere: the corps and the compass of its operations were big enough to absorb his mental and physical activity. He took to commanding a corps like a duck to water, and came to it at

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THE ARTS

Milos Forman made a daunting return to his native Czechoslovakia to film *Amadeus*, which opens in London next week: interview by John Preston

Going home to first principles

Fifteen years after he left Czechoslovakia to settle in America, Milos Forman returned to Prague to shoot his adaptation of Peter Shaffer's play *Amadeus*, which opens in London next week. It was not, he insists forcefully, a sentimental journey of any kind, and he goes on to give various perfectly plausible reasons as to why Prague was logistically the best possible place to make the film. It was still comparatively unmodernized, he knew the technicians and spoke the language. But later in the conversation, as he chafes the end off his second, large cigar, Forman says quietly: "I suppose subconsciously I was looking for an excuse to go back. You know, I could have gone back in 1971 but I couldn't face it. My only American film, *Taking Off*, had flopped, and it was too much for my pride to swallow to go back poorer than when I left."

In the intervening years, Forman suffered a severe nervous breakdown, came close to bankruptcy, saw his film *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* sweep the board at the 1975 Oscars and rose to the rare and exalted position of being able to pick a project at will and be assured of getting the backing for it. When the time did come, Forman may not have been ostentatiously returning home in triumph, but he had made quite sure that he had a highly impressive track-record to put between himself and any detractors.

Forman saw the first public preview of Peter Shaffer's production of *Amadeus* and was already talking about buying the rights to it during the interval. "I was absolutely

fascinated by the story. It would have been wonderful even if it was not about Mozart and Salieri. Essentially it is about the conflict between excellence and mediocrity. On the lowest level it is a murder mystery. You can also read it as a comedy. But there are so many different levels to it and, the higher you go, the more elaborate the metaphors become."

However, it is Shaffer's metaphors and the elaborate theatricality of his work that have tended to play havoc with previous film adaptations of his plays. While one may marvel at stylization and artifice on stage, in the more literal world of the big screen the same things have a nasty habit of looking crass and contrived. Irving Lerner came a notable cropper with *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*, while Sidney Lumet did not fare that much better with *Equus*. Forman, though, was not in the least bit deterred by the pitfalls that lay ahead in making the transition from the theatrical to the cinematic.

"In many ways it is more difficult to translate a more realistic play to the screen because you are very tempted simply to photograph it. With this I had to convince Peter Shaffer (who co-wrote the screenplay with Forman) that we had to treat his play as source material and make our film vision out of it. Really we had to go right back to zero. On screen what people speak is just another part of human behaviour. But on stage what they speak is often a lot of fireworks illustrating the author's wizardry with words. One has to take that away because it

would be very disturbing on screen. But that doesn't mean you are losing it. Because, if the words are really great, there is something behind those words and you must find a filmic way of getting them across. You replace them with what only cinema can do: images, faces in close-up and in this case, of course, music. I found that one could just hini with words and the music does for you what the monologues are doing on stage."

But, along with the necessity of opening out the play and indulging in full-scale period recreations, came the attendant dangers of getting bogged down in a surfeit of historical pageantry. "You have to watch that very carefully. You put a costume on an actor and he suddenly starts moving like something out of a fashion show. I insisted that all the actors put on their costumes quite some time before we started shooting each day so that they became used to living in them. Cameramen too can get carried away; suddenly a piece of furniture is more important than an actor. One must always concentrate on the people and keep a strong hold on the freshness."

For the part of Mozart, Forman chose the young and comparatively unknown American actor, Thomas Hulse, who bears a marked and perhaps not entirely coincidental resemblance to the iconic player John McEwen. In both men there is this apparent schism between temperament and talent that Forman was particularly eager to explore. "With Mozart, I don't think I have ever come across where so

many extreme contradictions were contained in one body. Childishness, arrogance, vanity, vulgarity. On the other hand, brilliance, great intelligence, great charm. And, above all, the music. It's mind-boggling. Hulse seemed to have the right combination of those elements. I deliberately didn't want stars for this film. I just wanted people to believe this is Mozart, not a famous face playing the part of Mozart."

Raised by two uncles after his parents died in concentration camps, Forman went to film school in Prague and made his feature film debut in 1963 with *Black Peter*. It was a period of unprecedented laxity in Czech cultural life and Forman's work reflected the impulses towards experimentation and social analyses that these new-found - and all too short-lived - freedoms permitted. His early films are notable for their sense of spontaneity, their ironic charm and their ostensibly casual use of narrative. In his two best-known Czech films, *A Blind in Love* and *The Fireman's Ball*, he improvised freely with non-professional actors around a script he had written himself. And, since moving to America, Forman has co-written only one original screenplay - *Taking Off* - and has subsequently confined himself to adaptations, in which more traditional elements of his style have had little room to exert themselves.

"I realized when I came to America that you could only achieve spontaneity if you are 100 per cent in control of every element. You have to know the people so well, the environment, the language, you



Milos Forman directing Tom Hulse as Mozart

know what is behind the words. Only then can you play all the strings. When you don't have this, you have to give up something and replace it with something else. That was probably why I began to look for stronger stories which would allow me, when I felt comfortable, to pull some of the strings from the past. But, if I can't do it, then there is a strong narrative to fall back on.

"After *Taking Off*, I felt so inadequate about trying to function as a writer in a society whose

language I didn't speak properly and whose culture I hadn't digested as a young man. So I decided that I would rather tell stories that had been digested - and written by someone who was born with that language and life experience."

Did he, I wondered, still spiritually feel himself to be something of a displaced person? There was a long pause. Forman, a stocky figure in tracksuit top and baseball boots, swung his feet on to the coffee table and off again. "No... well... it

depends. In many ways my situation is not at all bad. I want to believe that I don't miss being cut off from my source material. I would rather find a hundred reasons why I don't miss it, rather than one why I do. It's better for my comfort. I had to make a choice when I decided to stay in America. My first film there had been very much a view of the country as seen through the eyes of an outsider. But I couldn't carry on doing that. You see, the one thing above all else that I didn't want to become was a professional foreigner."

Theatre

Vanity Fair
Donmar Warehouse

It seems an impossible task to translate Thackeray's great *chef d'oeuvre*, spanning twenty years, two continents and a host of characters, into just over two hours' traffic on the stage, and people it with only eight actors. The result - if one does not wholly hold with Jonathan Miller's railing against those who think "novels are, in fact, plays unfortunately buried in a magma of unnecessary prose" - currently to be seen at the Donmar Warehouse, is a minor masterpiece of a production from Charles Jowett, a remarkably enterprising touring company.

Compression on this scale inevitably leads to broad strokes, glossed-over incidents and caricature at times in danger of making the characters become the puppets with which Thackeray opens and closes his novel. The rapidity with which fortunes and lovers are woo and lost among a society of largely unsympathetic people can make



Nick Ormerod's imaginative set for a gallery of grotesques

it seem like a period *Dallas*. But the strength of Hogarthian *exposé* remains, providing a salutary tale for those who smugly talk of returning to nineteenth-century values. For this is a grasping and hedonistic world populated by incompetent high-borns who

wield power in government and the army, where morals are compromised for wealth and position and where established religious supports add compounds inequities.

The chief weapon of jockeying is the captivating virago Becky Sharp, played by Sadie Shimmin with only a little more obviousness and less duplicity than the original. We follow her triumphs and reversals as she claws her way up the social ladder. Surrounding her is a gallery of grotesques: the stung malevolent Sir Pitt Crawley (Duncan Bell), beaten by his son to her hand; the simpering glutton Jos Sedley (Martin Turner) and the odious vulgar Marquis of Steyne (Bell again).

Contrasted with the scheming, immoral Becky is Amelia (Amanda Harris), warm and guileless but hopelessly bitching her way up to the wrong person. Allied to her is solid, faithful William Dobbin (Simon Dor-

mandy), for too long unrequited in his love for her while his rakish friend underservingly carries away her heart.

With accomplished precision, this talented and versatile company act as commentators on the action, musicians, singers, mimes and scene-shifters and, of course, take a succession of roles. Much of the dialogue is reported speech allowing streams of thought, description and narrative to come, but Monday night's inaugural offering by the BBC to the European Broadcasting Union, broadcast live on Radio 3, started well. This was a superlative revival of Handel's ode *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, a work of pastoral

warmth made all the more seasonal by the fact that (as we learn from one of Winston Dean's felicitous footnotes) it was composed "during one of the severest frosts in English history".

It is ironic that it should be the adopted Englishman Handel who showed us with such affectionate precision the sounds and the feelings of our countryside. In this performance, the textures of the Raglan Baroque Players, in the ethereal tolling of the curfew bell, the languorously lilting Siciliano which wanders through woods unseen and the rumbustious clanging of village bell (with its lively carillon), had a marvelous freshness and directness.

Handel's jolliest inspirations

Raglan Baroque
Players/Kraemer
St John's/Radio 3

Welcome (as Charles Jennens might put it) dread terecentenary, in which the honours to be heaped upon Bach, Handel and Scarlatti may well turn out to be thoroughly counter-productive. We will doubtless suffer myriad passions and oratorios in the months to come, but Monday night's inaugural offering by the BBC to the European Broadcasting Union, broadcast live on Radio 3, started well. This was a superlative revival of Handel's ode *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, a work of pastoral

Park Lane Group
Purcell Room

More dependable even than frozen wilderness and rail disruption, the Park Lane

Baillie/Lane
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu knows the value of allowing his misty, ethereal ideas the space to excite curiosity, develop strange tangents, and set off surprising resonances (sometimes literally). He has the confidence to say little but to say it eloquently, paradoxically his use of silence usually says most.

In his 1984 cello and piano work, *Orion*, he typically confines himself to a few sparse but haunting ideas. A drawn-out cello note slides slowly downwards, bringing microtonal differences under close scrutiny. The pianist conventionally accompanies with chords in a rich mode, or unconventionally plucks piano strings with his hand, producing a plangent shadow of the cello line. Normal "development" is minimal, yet cunning references and links give the piece a solemn inevitability.

The cellist Alexander Baillie, so purposeful here - producing a telling variation in vibrato and a finely calculated sufficiency of tone towards the end - had seemed to be on less than his usual impressive form earlier on. In Prokofiev's Op 119 Sonata the dynamic range sounded repressed, and though his artful phrasing of the scherzo's gentle middle passage was memorable, he missed much of the staccato, sardonic energy of its surroundings - and consequently blunted the essential contrast.

Baillie's timbre, neatly focused but often favouring harmonic overtones at the expense of a beefy fundamental pitch, suits him to lyrical or introspective music rather than heroics. Perhaps that is why the enishish bravura of Prokofiev's closing pages sounded accurate but limp, especially after he had concluded the first movement, on those enigmatic trills, so magically.

His account of Schubert's "Arpeggione" Sonata, however, had natural grace, despite the occasional intonation uncertainty in the high register, and Piers Lane's buoyant accompaniment contributed to its easy, song-like quality. The duo also played intelligently in the Fraeoch Major Sonata, signalling the motif's machinations alertly but subtly.

Peter Ackroyd

Richard Morrison

Concerts

Handel's exquisite melancholy

Handel's expressiveness; yet they imbued everything with infectious projected pleasure, and I especially enjoyed Nicholas Sillitoe's bright, poised boy treble.

The final duet of Part 3 (in which Jennens added a sop to Moderation to follow his adaptation of Milton's *Allegro and Penseroso*), with its lovely oboe and bassoon parts, was here a highlight. But there is no doubt that Part 1 contains the greatest imaginative strokes, and its close sent shivers up the spine, as in a few devastatingly beautiful bars the noisy celebrations collapsed into eerie, waiting sleepiness. A moment of pure genius.

Nicholas Kenyon

come through in any performance, good or bad; it is the exquisite melancholy which is unhearable when poorly done. Here, the endless twitterings of the sweet bird had for once a heavenly length, and the recitatives for *Il Penseroso* moved forward strongly. By contrast, Handel's evocation of "Laughter holding both his sides" sounded one of the nicest ideas this side of "The Laughing Policeman".

Nicholas Kraemer cultivated an open, natural sound in both his orchestra and chorus, light and supple, without any affectation or fussiness. His soloists, Patricia Kwella, Gillian Fisher, Bronwen Mills, Wynford Evans, William Kendall and Stephen Varcoe, cultivated a wider variety of approaches, to

visual display for Globokar's *Atemstunde*, but the effect in both cases was to distract attention from some elegant and virtuosic playing.

Anoa Noakes and Louise Johnson put no such obstacles in their path, already labouring under the handicap of the impoverished flute-harp repertoire. William Alwyn's *Madrigals* gave them both the opportunity to flourish and sparkle in the expected Ravelian manner; much more interesting was Michael Finocissio's use of the instruments against their natures in his *Kagami-Jishi*, or "Mirror of the Lion-Spirit".

Miss Noakes was powerful, tense and secure in the long loud notes of this piece. Miss Johnson hot and dry in its intemperate ebullience. Both musicians also had the opportunity to display a strongly projected variety of tone and articulation in Ned Rorem's *The Book of*

Hours, eight reflections on the daily offices ranging here from cool chant to her solo spots.

The cellist Elizabeth Anderson was on less good form, and sadly failed to be roused even by the accommodating energy of George Benjamin at the piano in his own Duo. Other occasions will no doubt find her more comfortably in tune and intent on her audience as much as her part.

Paul Griffiths

Welsh National Opera announce with regret that Richard Armstrong has decided to relinquish the position of music director on December 31, 1986, after 18 years with the company. 14 of them as music director. The name of his successor will be announced shortly.

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Television
Really unconvincing

Doctors' Dilemmas (BBC 2) opened with the claim that "the following story is based on a real case" - a sentence so ambiguous that, depending on the precise meaning of "based", it might mean anything or nothing; the latter, I suspect. And the situation was not made any clearer by a further announcement that everyone concerned in the programme was acting, with the exception of the doctor at the centre of it all. As a result, we had the worst of both worlds - an imaginary situation (concerning the surreptitious use of a birth-control

pill) which tried to move close to documentary realism, and a live doctor who was forced by cameras and lights to behave in an unreal manner.

And so the narrative seemed most unconvincing. Since it did not offer much entertainment it must surely have been designed for instruction, although apparently directed solely at those wives who lie to, rather than with, their husbands. Certainly it offered an agreeable picture of the National Health Service (the doctor managed to change his tie between consultations), although was less reassuring about the state of television acting. What was astonishing, however, was the extent to which it was taken for granted that the doctor should act as a moral agent and adopt an almost priestly role with his patients.

The dramatization, if that is the appropriate word, was followed by a studio discussion in which the confusion between fact and fiction was further compounded by the doctor being quizzed by a panel of humourless experts. Not only had the poor man been forced to react to an artificial situation, he was also to be criticized for having done so. His was the position of a fairground dokey being abused for accepting rides. Quite what the point of it all was remained unclear, except, perhaps, as a contribution to the gale of hot air which blows across the television screen. No doubt both doctors and patients would learn more from the average Australian soap opera.

Peter Ackroyd

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137	Japan Rice (Osaka)	236	0	171	5.8
140	India Coffee	245	0	143	5.1
143	India Coffee	245	0	143	5.1
147	India Coffee	245	0	143	5.1
150	India Coffee	245	0	143	5.1
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130	Boma Mustang	980	15.78	1.8	20.0
130	SPCC	970	15.78	92	11.2
106	Bransford	158	7.0	4.4	22.4
88	De Ru	148	9.0	4.2	30.7
106	Banci	448	8.8	4.8	24.8
200	Redden Comm	900	8.8	1.3	20.0
233	Chapman	845	11.6	4.6	33.7
82	Clay (Richard)	507	8.8	4.7	21.8
82	Grepper (James)	115	2.9	2.5	12.5
104	DRC	153	8.8	4.2	22.2
36	Stevens Paper	170	8.8	4.3	19.0
36	Stevens Paper	150	7.0	1.8	15.0

793	Lowell H. Stone	253	+5	3.4	3.4	2.1
106	McConquidie	180	-	7.7	4.3	12.9
67	Major O'Farrell	85	+2	4.9	5.7	13.5
13	Drury & Mather	230	-	-	-	-
26	Quinn Paper	42	-3	0.5	1.2	39.8
520	Sawatch & Gault	910	+6	17.2	1.0	24.2
118	Smurfit (J&P)	143	+0	15.1	2.1	-
123	Usher Walker	200	-	8.4	4.2	71.8

184	Waterhouse	270	3	73	2.9	12.6
PROPERTY						
54	Allegan	107	2	24	2.3	15.1

285	Bassett (CH)	574		15.0	4.0	9.9
189	Ellison (P)	234	+8	14.6	4.3	10.8
275	Bradford	365		14.4	2.6	19.4
1049	St Land	145	+1	3.28	2.2	39.5
117	Brabson	138	+1	0.9	8.2	22.8
170	Cats & Counties	210	+9	7.0	3.3	21.0
128	Cardiff Prop	163	0	2.5	1.6	
190	Cardiffindist	220	0	0.6	3.9	15.3

123	Carla Michaels	153	8.7	5.7	11.1
37	Control Sec's	389	4.5	17.4	7.4
70	Country & New	309	1.8	1.8	89.2
53	Country 2	188	2.9	3.3	7.5
210	Crossing	225	8.1	3.6	14.0
106	Cumbria	818	17.3	5.8	7.0
50	Dawn Dev	145	7.0		
10	Dinos	19	5.4	1.0	7.1
0	Eastw Trust	90		6.5	10.2
				10.2	7.1

148	James Day	180	3.7	3.4	
149	James "Pop"	180	31.8	7.5	36.3
62	Evans Of Leeds	74	4.5	8.5	13.0
125	Fairview	160	•	8.8	8.5
24	Five Oaks	24	•	•	8.5
145	Gr Portland	180	•	7.9	4.9
150	Graycoat City	194	•	2.2	1.7
60	Hallowood Co	188	•	7.0	9.1
367	Hempstead 'A'	500	•	11.4	2.5

83%	Jennys	115		2.3	2.8	21.3
234	Luling Prop	298	+2	6.3	2.8	34.7
32%	Land Investors	58		1.4	3.8	24.1
248	Land Securities	367	+4	10.7	3.5	81.9
253	Loan & Prop Shop	278	-2	5.7	2.1	28.9
113	Loan Shop Prop	127	-1	8.3	3.0	22.0
256	Lyndon	325	+5	8.2	2.8	31.8
249	M&P	318	+10	12.9	4.0	23.4
40	M&P					

10	Marathon	109	13.9	13.5	11.9
113	Marathon	66	0.7b	1.3	
80	Marine East	123	2.9	2.3	6.1
210	Marine	48	7.7	9.0	4.0
228	Mauldin	285	5.6	2.8	11.8
72	Mauldin (Adj.)	310	4.2	6.8	13.3
9 ^a	Municipal	512	14.5	1.2	26.8
68	New Canaan	32	1.8	1.8	36.9

108	Prop 6 New	150	● -2	6.8	30
84	Prop 6 Hds	112	● -3	2.3	36.8
112	Prop Security	126	● +3	3.2	22.7
7	Region	6		0.1	18
84	Region	66		3.7	4.5
207	Flowerhough	650		4.8	0.7
284	Flu & T. Tompkins	310	+6	10.4	4.2
131	Garnett	150	+3	7.8	5.0
29	Sutton				108

131	Shaydang	150	0	12.0	6.3	-3.2
134	Sand Seas	182	0	4.0	3.0	25.0
43	Sanday Gauravani	71	0	+8.2	1.7	2.4
303	Sanday Gauravani	429	0	-2	8.8	2.0
48	Shad	52	0	-2	8.8	2.0
35	Town Centre	40	0	-1	1.3	3.2
148	Trafford Park	195	0	14.3	7.7	18.2
440	Urd Patel	525	0	2.7	14.3	23.7
625	Yvonne	540	+15	17.1	2.7	18.0

140	West & City	147	10.7	7.3	8.5
SHIPPING					
183	Assoc. Br. Ports	201	-2	12.1	8.0

61	Father (James)	110			
57	Grady	625		4.4	3.5
45	Husband (Steven)	89	-1	2.8	2.9
82	Jacobs (Jr)	54		8.8	10.0
3	LOFS	4		4.4	6.2
21	Lyle	30			
26	Money Docks	26			6.3
105	Money Transport	128			1.8
240	P.O. Old	124	+1	5.4	5.8

350	Tomb Raider	385	7.1	8.2	11.4
			11.4	8.1	
SHOES AND LEATHER					
186	Fit	210	8.5	1.0	11.2

140	Laubert Howard	288	-	3.1	8.8	7.7
701	Needle & Barton	87	-	7.2	3.8	0.0
718	Peters	25	+3	0.6	14.6	1.4
80	Strong & Fisher	148	+1	8.7	7.2	7.8
00	Synco	143	-	3.2	2.2	32.6

265	Alfred Tost	310	+3	10.3	3.2	10.7
80	Abbede Bros.	105		7.1	6.7	72.9
74	Beale Lacey	78	+8	4.2	5.7	6.5
84	Bachman (A)	66		5.2	6.6	12.6
79	Br Mohler	107	-7	8.8	3.3	8.5
58	Bulmer & Lamb	71		0.4	9.5	8.8
15	Campbell Inc	31	+1			

79	Courtside	147	•	•	90	5.5	9.7	9.1
80	Crowder (J)	44				5.8	4.4	8.5
85	Darmon	282	•	•	•	10.2	3.3	29.8
78	Davis (D)	123	•	•		5.8	5.2	13.6
86	Don Bust	140				5.4	4.5	16.2
74	Dura M	96				9.1	8.1	7.4
75	Foster (John)	392	•	•		3.2	8.4	8.7
74	Garfield Broadcom	88				6.4	7.3	5.4

46	Jalisco (S)	53	3.8	1.9	
58	Leads	121	7.1	5.2	78.2
43	Lehr	54	9.1	8.3	17.4
55	Lyons (S)	78	7.9	10.1	12.1
55	Macdonald (Hugh)	78	5.7	7.3	24.5
55	Murphy	29	4.3	14.3	3.6
68	Northampton Ward	222	0.0	4.1	8.1
72	Oliver (James)	28	2.1	7.5	4.0

12	Shaw Carpets	47	-	3.6	8.2
12	Sider	126	-	4.6	1.6
12	Smartmatic sys.	30	-	0.6	12.5
53	Snell Victor	84	+2	2.9	4.1
51	Starned Riley	56	-	2.3	8.9
52	Stearns Janney	52	-	5.7	5.5
53	Terminator	100	-	7.1	17.1
56	Toshiba	59	-	3.5	18.7

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Reagan steels himself for attack on deficit

President Reagan, suppressing earlier doubts, seems ready to accept a modified version of the US Treasury's tax reform programme as the cornerstone of his State of the Union message next month. The surprise appointment of Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, as White House Chief of Staff, undercuts his determination to overhaul the US tax system in his second term.

At the same time, Mr Reagan has moved to counter adverse publicity resulting from his inability to cut in half the massive federal deficit by indicating he may support budget cuts by Republican senators he had earlier declared "off limits".

The President's plan, following the rejection of his programme by influential Republicans, is to let Congress take the hard decisions in reducing expenditures. The President will not himself renege on a campaign promise not to tamper with social security benefits but if Congress proposes reductions he is likely to accept them.

The increased political manoeuvring by both the White House and the newly returned Congress over the key economic decisions facing the Administration comes at a time when there is mounting public concern over revised greatly-increased deficit forecasts over the next three years.

Mr Reagan has also signalled his displeasure with the gloom and doom message of uncontrollable deficits sounded by his budget director, David Stockman, by seeking to distance himself from the new higher figures used in briefings for Congressional leaders.

"The latest deficit figures you have seen from the Office of Management and Budget have not been presented to the White House and may well not be borne out in the estimates once the final figures of third quarter and fourth quarter growth are in," Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said.

Mr Stockman told Congressional leaders last week that because of revised economic forecasts, the federal deficit in 1985 was estimated at \$140 billion, well beyond the president's goal of \$100 billion.

The revised figures led Senate Republicans to announce they would revise their own 1986 budget, calling for steeper cuts than the President had achieved. Barry Goldwater, the conservative Republican Senator who is the new chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said the figures convinced him that the military budget had to be cut. In a brief speech on the Senate floor, he asked for suggestions from his colleagues.

The shift of Mr Reagan to the White House and the appointment of James Baker III, the Chief of Staff as Treasury Secretary, are likely to affect strategy greatly. Mr Baker, a pragmatist who has forged strong ties with Congress, is likely to reshuffle people and emerge as a more independent voice on deficits, taxes and Federal Reserve policies. Mr Baker, who had been mentioned for the Treasury post last year, is known to want to seek "more creative solutions" to international debt problems and the domestic issues facing the Administration.

Breathing space for the M3

When figures as distorted as the recent money figures have been by the sale of British Telecom, it is the impression that matters as much as the facts. The impression given by yesterday's money figures for the three weeks to December 12 was undoubtedly good, cutting the three-month interbank rate of interest almost to 10 per cent - above but no longer wildly out of line with current bank base rates.

The good impression was partly a matter of presentation. British Telecom's own cash, by being transferred to the private sector, now comes into EM3 and other wider money measures, adding about 0.5 per cent. But the Bank of

England has (quite legitimately) left these out of the provisional money figures for comparison. They will come into the final figures.

Market analysts, such as Phillips & Drew, had included them so that the apparent 0.5 per cent cut is about in line with P&D estimates and slightly better than the more cautious estimates of a rise of 0.2 to 0.5 per cent. The treatment of unsuccessful Telecom application cheques may also have helped the figures, but since the Bank of England had to make some treatment of "suspense" accounts, there can be few complaints of deliberate dressing up of the figures.

Were it not for the present arguments about sterling, money and interest rates, however, yesterday's figures would rightly have been discounted as a guide to the trend, as the bad November figures should also be.

The trend itself remains worrying. EM3 is still up against its excessively generous 10 per cent growth ceiling on an annualized basis. Mo, the money base which has hitherto kept low, has been distorted up to 7 1/2 per cent annualized growth against an 8 per cent ceiling, while M2 is up 10 1/4 per cent over 12 months and the wider PS12 up an annualized 15 1/4 per cent over the present target period.

The picture this gives is of an economy still extraordinarily hungry for credit. Bank lending is rising at £1.4 billion a month - a bit more in the latest period, which means that the Bank of England must continually borrow more long-term than required by the budget deficit to keep money supply within target. Stephen Lewis of Phillips & Drew calculates that £4 billion of funding would be needed between now and April to keep the figures in line over the full 14-month period. Certainly we can expect the Bank of England to use any opportunity to sell gilt-edged, perhaps before next week's deadline for the January banking month.

The conundrum remains. Why does the British economy need faster credit growth than the US to finance much more modest economic growth? And is that a healthy sign for interest rates in the long run?

A care problem for the EEC

Rather like the money supply, the condition of the European Community is open to a variety of interpretations. The statesmanlike judgment, admirably and appropriately expressed yesterday by Christopher Tugendhat at a European Movement lunch host by Dr Philip Harvey of ICI, is that progress has been greater than opponents would allow but slower than believers would wish.

The founding Treaty of Rome, as he pointed out, was a programme for action, something that the Community now conspicuously lacks. It also lacks a dominant member, a role filled in the formative years by France.

The risk that the Community in future will more in ever decreasing circles is increased as the number of member countries rises - from six to nine, to 10 and soon to 12. If there is a denial of change unless all members agree, then the Community will surely wither on the vine.

Mr Tugendhat would like to see "a more structured programme and a better framework in which to take decisions." In practice this requires agreements among ministers from various countries on changes they regard as desirable. The majority in favour of change would probably vary from issue to issue.

This would be a formula for progress only if "the choice facing each member is not whether to prevent something happening but whether or not to be a part of what is proposed should happen. We have had too much experience of not doing anything because a minority is against."

Mr Tugendhat's vision is of "a core Community" whose central concepts - the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common External Tariff - can be accepted or not, surrounded by "concentric circles".

Shares soar to new heights as base rate fears subside

By William Kay
City Editor

The London stock market strode confidently to an all-time peak yesterday evening after the Government's money supply figures gave investors reason to hope that interest rates would not, after all, be increased this week.

The Financial Times 30-share industrial ordinary index jumped 12.9 between 2pm and the close to register a gain on the day of 15.5 at a record 971.2.

The FT-SE 100-share index reacted a shade more cautiously. After being 4.5 ahead at 2pm, before the money supply announcement, it ended 14.5 higher at 1,243.5, again a record.

The more broadly-based FT all-share index rose by 7.8 to a peak of 398.31.

While the half per cent fall in EM3 was only marginally better than expected after making adjustments for the removal of British Telecom shares from the public sector, equity dealers reacted strongly to the accompanying quarter-point fall in British money market interest rates. The three-month sterling interbank rate fell from 10 1/4 to 10 1/8 and yesterday, Barclay's Bank uses this

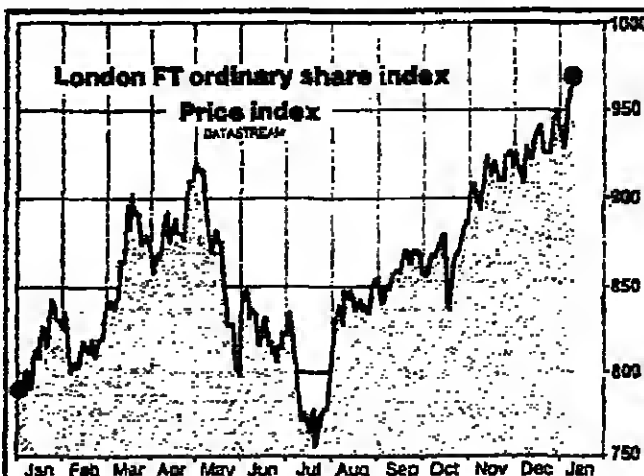


figure to decide whether to alter its own base rate.

Leading shares rose by up to 12p, headed by shipping, breweries, stores, textiles and packaging. Rises outnumbered falls by three to one. Gilt-edged stock rose by 1 1/2 at the short end and 2 1/2 among the longer.

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Business chambers may unite

By Our City Staff

Plans to set up the largest organization representing businessmen in Britain will be discussed in London today.

Proposals to merge the National Chamber of Trade and the National Association of British Chambers of Commerce are under discussion.

A special meeting of the ABCC national council is to be held to approve the merger in principle. Discussions will centre on a draft document drawn up by the chief executives of the NCT and ABCC. The merger would create an organization representing more than 250,000 businessmen and professional men and women.

The document favours an administrative merger at national level but recommends that local organizations be allowed to maintain autonomy.

The new organization would represent 95,000 businesses and 29 national trade organizations.

Director general of the ABCC, Mr Ron Taylor, said his national council could only make decisions of principle on the merger when it met today. He expected it would recommend a meeting of all affiliated groups to endorse the plan.

Head of the WCT, Mr Leslie Seacey, said the new body would have more political influence than either of the existing organizations.

Opposition to the merger is expected from businessmen in Manchester, Nottingham and the East Midlands.

The merger document gives January 1, 1986 as the proposed finalization date but sources within the two organizations say the end of next year is more likely.

New brewery chief for Allied Lyons

By Derek Harris, Our Commercial Editor

Mr Richard G Martin has been appointed managing director of Allied Breweries in a big board shake-up of the brewing division of Allied Lyons.

Mr Martin has, for more than three years, been chairman of Ind Coope, the Allied operating company taking in large swathe of the South England. Before that, he was in Joshua Tetley in the North. In both companies he built a reputation for getting results, a quiet man who exercises strong control. He is 52-years-old and has been connected with the brewing industry for nearly 30 years.

The new assistant managing directors are Mr Tony Ward-Norbury, responsible for the North, and Mr Roy Moss who will look after the South. Mr Ward-Norbury has been managing director of Joshua Tetley while Mr Moss was managing director at Ind Coope.

Among half a dozen will assume responsibility for personnel services and the sector. Mr Michael Griffiths becomes joint managing director of Ind Coope and Mr Peter Bentley managing director of Joshua Tetley.

The aim of the two newly-created posts appears to be to ensure a stronger strategic direction. An announcement after a day-long board meeting yesterday also talked of accelerating decentralization.

The company statement said: "The re-organization is designed to concentrate resources on brand marketing and retailing, to accelerate decentralization and to achieve a 'social contract'."

The programme appears to fit in with measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund in exchange for assistance in renegotiating Argentina's \$48.4 billion foreign debt, in that it sets out a 1.1 per cent drop in domestic demands for 1985 and would maintain real wages at present levels.

Argentina's powerful unions are expected to object strongly to the programme and to demand increases in both the wage and economic growth targets.

The programme includes targets of an average 12.6 per cent increase in exports for each of the next five years and boosting Argentina's trade surplus by \$4 billion to \$6 billion by 1989, using an exchange rate for the peso that would make Argentine products competitive on world markets.

The plan, which sets a target of 2.5 per cent growth in the gross domestic product for 1985 is to be negotiated with union and business groups as part of President Raul Alfonsin's effort

Government's willingness to resist the temptation to prop up sterling through higher interest rates. In contrast to last summer's panic, the stance lately has been one of studied indifference.

A factor which may come to the authorities' aid is the present bout of cold weather, which is boosting demand for oil and could push through into higher prices. That will help sterling.

Meanwhile, the stock market is warming itself on the daily bulletins of the numbers of miners claimed to be returning to the coalfields.

The City has long built into share prices its collective view that the National Union of Mineworkers will lose its 10-month struggle.

This combination of good news and the absence of bad news from investors' point of view is falling on a market which is acutely short of stock.

Insurance premiums and pension contributions continue to roll in relentlessly to be invested, and supply is unable to keep pace.

Few institutions are able to sell and, despite the British Telecom issue, not enough new equity capital is being created.

Attention will now be focused on the extent of the

RMC pays £27m for expansion

By Christopher Dunn

RMC, the world's largest maker of ready-mixed concrete, yesterday tied up two overseas deals worth more than £27 million, but denied that it was pulling out of Britain.

The group financed the foreign transactions by the controversial tender placing technique, selling 5.9 million shares, or 6.2 per cent of the group, to City institutions at 378p.

Commenting on the deal, Mr Derek Jenkins, RMC finance director, denied that the group was upset by the Government's refusal to spend money on roads and sewers. "But the Government ought to review what needs doing and take the necessary steps."

Schroder Wagg, the merchant bankers who organized the tender placing, sold the RMC shares at a discount of just 2 per cent on the current market price, despite the group's marked underperformance in the stock market during the past year. Mr John Bushell, Schroder director commented: "We saw good demand for the shares."

Tempus, page 17

Argentina unveils economic plan

The Argentine government has announced a five-year economic programme which forecasts honest economic growth based on a stronger expansion of exports. Douglas Tweeddale writes from Buenos Aires.

The plan, which sets a target of 2.5 per cent growth in the gross domestic product for 1985 is to be negotiated with union and business groups as part of President Raul Alfonsin's effort

to achieve a "social contract". The programme appears to fit in with measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund in exchange for assistance in renegotiating Argentina's \$48.4 billion foreign debt, in that it sets out a 1.1 per cent drop in domestic demands for 1985 and would maintain real wages at present levels.

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IN BRIEF
Nationwide record

The Nationwide building society, Britain's third largest, would not be obliged to raise its mortgage rate for more than a month if bank base rates rose by around one per cent this week. Mr Cyril English, chief general manager, said yesterday. He also announced a record year for the society last year, with net receipts up 50 per cent to £1.182 million and new mortgage lending up 19 per cent to £1.800. The society's assets also rose to the highest ever at £8.738 million.

The society's total reserves were £370 million at the year-end. The liquidity ratio improved from 19.9 per cent in 1983 to 21.4 per cent at the end of 1984. Nationwide now has more than 3.3 million investors.

The society's current cash inflow is very healthy and January is traditionally a good month for deposits, putting Nationwide in a strong position if base rates rise, Mr English says.

This combination of good news and the absence of bad news from investors' point of view is falling on a market which is acutely short of stock.

Insurance premiums and pension contributions continue to roll in relentlessly to be invested, and supply is unable to keep pace.

Few institutions are able to sell and, despite the British Telecom issue, not enough new equity capital is being created.

Attention will now be focused on the extent of the

Government's willingness to resist the temptation to prop up sterling through higher interest rates. In contrast to last summer's panic, the stance lately has been one of studied indifference.

A factor which may come to the authorities' aid is the present bout of cold weather, which is boosting demand for oil and could push through into higher prices. That will help sterling.

Meanwhile, the stock market is warming itself on the daily bulletins of the numbers of miners claimed to be returning to the coalfields.

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Uncertainty threat to yard sales

By Jonathan Davis
Business Correspondent

The Government was adamant yesterday that it will be able to meet its timetable for privatizing British Shipbuilders' warship yards, despite the fact that key political decisions affecting at least four of the seven yards on offer have not been taken.

Offer documents for three yards have been sent out, and the Department of Trade and Industry insist that sale documents for the remaining four will be available by the end of March.

The sale process is being held up, however, by lack of decision within the Government on two issues. One concerns the destination of two Royal Navy frigates.

Three British Shipbuilders' yards, Vospers Thornycroft, Cammell Laird and Swan Hunter, want the orders.

The other issue concerns the form in which the former Vickers yard at Barrow-in-Furness is to be sold. The yard is being modernized at a cost of up to £200 million but potential private sector buyers consider buying the yard out right too risky.

Outdated methods 'hit exports'

By Our Commercial Editor

British companies, particularly the small and medium-sized, are throwing away export chances in Europe because of old-fashioned methods of charging for goods. While most European rivals quote inclusive delivered prices to customers anywhere in the EEC, barely one in five British companies does this.

This emerged yesterday from a survey by the Centre for Physical Distribution Management, part of the British Institute of Management.

Too many British companies still quoted only factory gate prices of merely to a shipping point, said the survey. It added: "Selling delivered enables an exporter to fix a competitive price in the market place and determines the extent of the market which he can serve economically. Selling ex-works is a hindrance to this process and must result in opportunities being lost."

It left British products at a disadvantage, probably leading to a failure to achieve potential sales, the survey said. The benefits were also lost of physical distribution management like reliability, stock made-off and rationalization of distribution points.

Heart of England to merge

The Heart of England Building Society, whose general manager is Mr Herbert Walden, yesterday announced its merger with the Coventry Building Society. The combined society will have assets of more than £900 million which will make it the 16th or 17th largest.

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	MAIN PRICE CHANGES	CURRENCIES
FT Ind Ord 971.2 (+15.5)	RISER:	London:
FT-A All Share 598.31 (+7.38)	Riley Leisure 45p +3p	£: \$1

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY

Smashing the engineers' stereotype

By Tim Congdon

Market forces are clearing the way for a minor miracle in a troubled industry

Britain's engineering industry is dynamic, flexible and forward-looking. It is changing more rapidly and for the better, than at any time in its history. These claims may seem incredible. The media stereotype of British engineering as inefficient and declining is so deeply entrenched that they lack plausibility.

The aggregate numbers do indeed suggest that they come from cloud cuckoo land. As the accompanying table shows, output of the engineering industry as a whole has risen 2 per cent higher in the third quarter of 1984 than in 1980.

This gives a growth rate of a mere 0.5 per cent a year, surely implying stagnation, an almost complete absence of change and an inability to shift from unimpressive to dynamic areas. On an aggregate basis, the engineering industry conforms only too well to the media stereotype.

But a more careful examination of the figures argues for a very different interpretation. The engineering industry has two main branches: mechanical engineering and electrical engineering. There has been a remarkably sharp divergence between them in the last four years.

Mechanical engineering has been sliding without interruption since 1980. Even in 1984, undoubtedly a year of recovery for the rest of the economy, its output fell. Official statistics identify 25 activities under the mechanical engineering heading. Only one of these, wheeled tractors, to be specific, produced more last year than in 1980.

By contrast, instrument and electrical engineering has been expanding very fast, particularly

in the last two years. In 1982 its output was slightly less than in 1980. In 1983 it advanced by 9 per cent and in the third quarter of 1984 it was 15 per cent more than a year earlier.

We seem almost to have two economies in one island, the first of which might be called media-stereotype Britain and the other Hong Kong in Europe. The extreme differences between them are dramatized if we look at their sub-sectors.

By far the most vigorous industry in the Hong Kong style part of the economy is electronic data processing equipment, which is dominated by computers. Its production in 1982 was lower than in 1980, but in the last two years output has more than doubled. The growth rate probably exceeds that in other industrial economies.

Moreover, electronic data processing equipment is no longer a small and minor adjunct in more traditional industries. Even in 1980 its weight in all engineering production was 4.5 per cent, because of the recent boom its weight in 1983 will be about 10 per cent, making it the largest single component.

The most depressed activities in media-stereotype Britain are, by contrast, much smaller. The three industries (textile machinery, bearings and mining machinery) with the most severe production losses since 1980 have a combined weight of under 3.5 per cent. Their output has dropped by almost 40 per cent and is still going down.

The contrast between the two branches of engineering complicates analysis of the economy's progress. Clearly, the notion of a single "engineering industry" is bogus. Does it make any sense to talk about the growth rate of "engineering" when it is undergoing such drastic structural upheaval?

There is, in the first place, a well-known statistical problem. The growth rate of engineering as a whole has to be measured by adding up the growth rates of

BRITAIN'S CHANGING ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

	Weight (combined engineering = 100)	1980 = 100	3rd qtr 1984	% change in year to 3rd qtr 1984
Index of production:				
Manufacturing industries	386.79	100	97	+ 2.1
Combined engineering	100.00	100	96	+ 6.3
Mechanical engineering	52.89	100	86	- 3.5
Instruments and electrical engineering	47.11	100	107	+15.0
Activity headings:				
Electronic data processing equipment	4.51	100	156	+46.2
Active and other electronic components	2.81	100	132	+31.8
Records and tapes/electronic consumer goods	1.27	100	148	+ 2.0
Textile machinery	0.81	100	65	- 1.5
Bell, needle and roller bearings	0.81	100	67	- 6.0
Mining machinery	1.63	100	61	- 1.8

Source: British Business January 4, 1985.

the constituents, each of which has to be given a weight. But what weighting system should be adopted?

The weights can correspond to the relative sizes of the various activities at either the beginning or the end of the period under consideration. In this case the beginning could be 1980 and the end 1985, when the industrial production figures will have to be rebased anyway.

It is obvious that the structural pattern of British engineering will be radically different in 1985 from what it was in 1980. As the expanding industries will be far more important, the growth rate of engineering measured with 1985 weights will be above that measured with 1980 weights.

Normally this sort of problem is a statistical curiosity because structural change proceeds at a gentle pace. But in the early 1980s it has been so swift and drastic that the new production series may necessitate a complete rewriting of history.

It is possible, on recent form, that by 1985 instrument and electrical engineering will account for two-thirds of engineering output, and mechanical engineering for the remaining third. If this were the

weighting system used, a simple calculation shows that the output of all engineering increased by almost 10 per cent between 1980 and the third quarter of 1984, five times higher than the present official estimate of 2 per cent.

Engineering employment has fallen heavily over the period and the existing estimates of productivity growth already indicate an acceleration from previous trends. As productivity estimates with the new weights will be more spectacular, the media stereotype will be in need of further overhaul. Parts of British industry will even more closely resemble an outpost of Hong Kong.

Related to the problem of measurement is the question of whether the early 1980s were a period of "success" or "failure" for engineering and, indeed, for industry more generally. A debate about this subject has already started with a few econometric exercises claiming to demonstrate that recent productivity behaviour has not been particularly special.

The debate will be easier to adjudicate some years from now, when the new series with 1985 weights are available and the recovery will have been taken much further. Presum-

ably no one would disagree that industry had done well by past standards if, by 1988, mechanical engineering output had returned to 1980 levels, instrument and electrical engineering output was more than 50 per cent up and the numbers employed were still lower.

This combination does seem reasonably likely. Even though it would represent a small-scale miracle, arguments will rage for ever about whether the costs of adjustment were excessive and how much government policy contributed.

Professor Max Corden, of the Australian National University, once proposed that much of so-called "industrial policy" is motivated by a conservative welfare function. In layman's terms, governments dislike the misery of an unsuccessful producer group more than they like the euphoria of a successful producer group of the same size. The tendency of industrial policy is therefore to preserve the existing structure, despite changes in supply, demand and technology.

Whatever else may be said about the present Government, it is clear that a conservative welfare function cannot explain its industrial policy. In many ways there has not been any meaningful policy at all.

For example, there is no coherent Whitehall view about the appropriate relative importance of ball bearings and active electronic components. Given the chance and taxpayer's money, civil servants in the Department of Trade and Industry would certainly subsidize both. But since 1980 their interventionist urges have been kept under some sort of control.

Perhaps it is the absence of policy, a willingness to let market forces do their worst for their best, which has allowed the re-structuring of British engineering to happen. The scale of this re-structuring may in a few years seem more radical and thorough than the official statistics now indicate.

The author is a consultant partner at stockbroker L. Messel & Co.

TEMPUS

New acquisition boosts Carlton's Goliath image

It is less than two years since Carlton Communications obtained a full Stock Exchange listing and the company has not wasted the opportunity to use its quotation as a platform for fund raising to back a series of acquisitions.

Yesterday's announcement of Carlton's purchase of Integrated Holdings is small beer in comparison to the acquisition of Alaska Video Systems of California before Christmas. It is, however, confirmation of the company's determination to collect "niche" businesses which will complement its main activities. Carlton is striving to provide a wide range of products and services for the television, film, video, advertising and exhibition industries, and in doing so has established an impressive profits growth record. Pretax profits for the year to September 30, 1984 were up by 58 per cent to £5.5 million and could go as high as £11 million this year.

The company is emerging as a giant in an arena which has traditionally been a showplace for creative minnows. However, Carlton is to be cast as a relative Goliath then the part of David must be played by Television Services International.

TSI came to the USM at about the same time as Carlton received its full listing. Progress since then has been sure but steady. It made pretax profits of £340,000 in 1983 and has forecast not less than £450,000 for 1984. Like Carlton, it made an acquisition just before Christmas.

The £2.1 million purchase of Molinare, the loss making video production group, passed almost without notice, but it should prove one of the most significant acquisitions which TSI will ever make. At a stroke it has tripled its size in terms of production capability and turnover.

TSI has estimated that Molinare will be profitable by the end of March largely as a function of buying out loan stock and repaying loans. This will produce an instant saving of about £600,000 and there is another £500,000 saving to come when hire purchase repayments are completed later this year.

Given that Molinare was making a trading profit of £700,000 in the year to April 30 1984, it is easy to see where the turnaround will come from.

The improved management and marketing skills which TSI will bring should ensure that Molinare becomes a more competitive animal, particularly in the world of TV commercials production. TSI

has also inherited some very impressive and advanced production facilities.

There is little doubt that Carlton will have to look a little more carefully in the future at the threat to its dominance posed by this young pretender. However, TSI still has some way to go before it can match the breadth and geographical exposure of Carlton.

The two companies are perhaps at different stages in their respective careers but when TSI obtains its full listing more attention will be paid to its potential by institutional investors.

Last night, Carlton shares closed up 5p at 64.5p, almost £2 better than six months ago. TSI also added 5p to 166p and have added 40p since just before Christmas.

It will be an interesting battle to follow and TSI's smaller base might just give it the edge on capital growth prospects.

RMC

RMC's £27 million brace of deals in Germany and the USA continues the drift abroad of Britain's aggregate kings, as the roads crumble - but this time with a difference.

Last week, Redland swapped its US window manufacturing business for three Dutch building material concerns. This time around, RMC, owner of the world's biggest concrete maker, is pushing heavily into both the USA and Germany, while denying that the Government's refusal to spend heavily on infrastructure is a motivating factor.

The US deal is fairly straightforward. RMC is paying £5.2 million for Allied Products a Georgia-based ready-mixed concrete concern. This takes RMC into a new geographic area, the fast-growing sunshine belt, and reaffirms the group's commitment to source about a fifth of group profits in due course from the USA. The present rate is about 10 per cent. Presumably another larger deal will follow shortly.

But the German deal is more complex, involving wrap-up operation that takes in issue of good housekeeping, stock market behavior, and balance sheet control. In 1981, RMC paid Deutschemark 66.7 million (£15.5 million) for 49 per cent of Rheinisch-Westfälische Kalkwerke, a 100-year-old company, with huge limestone reserves which has dashed unwisely into expensive diversification. Result? Borrowings of about £75 million and annual losses of about DM 50 million.

RMC took 49 per cent - thereby avoiding consolidating the debt - with options to buy out the remainder. During the last three years, borrowings have dropped to about £5 million, and profits now look set to rise from £3.6 million for the year to December 31, 1983, to more than £7 million in 1984. The total cost acquisition, £37.5 million, represents a discount on net worth of £40 million and an exit multiple of about 12.

The outlook for the German construction industry may not be too bright, but access via RWK to Germany's export sensitive industries, like steel and chemicals must, on balance, prove a strategic gain. And the vendor placing? An equity enlargement of just 6.2 per cent could hardly ruffle shareholders' feelings. The placing took 10 hours, for a share which has underperformed by nearly a fifth in 1984. Does the market detect Government purse strings loosening?

Gilt

They were the best of figures, they were the worst of figures, but the gilt market chose to interpret the outline money supply figures for banking December in a favourable light. Longs jumped by 1½ points, the shorts put on a point, and the Government Broker completed the sale of his relatively unpopular long tap. Exchequer 9½ per cent 1998, it was all right on the night.

But was it? Lots of colly-wobbles still remain. A typical gross funds stock, like Treasury 13½ per cent 2004/2008, rose from a closing price on Monday evening of 125½ to 127½ middle at the close yesterday. But odd bouts of profit-taking disturbed the smooth advance.

True, the GIB cleared out his tap, but he was forced to cut his price to 38½ compared with a pre-British Telecom level of close on 60. Shorts may have jumped a point, but as Mr Stephen Lewis and Mr Chris Anthony, gilt analysts at Phillips & Drew point out, the yield curve at the short end is still pretty steep. Base rates of 9½ per cent compare with yields in the 1989 area of about 11½ per cent.

The Government Broker has still failed to price the current market through a new issue, and the odds are that his Friday afternoon manoeuvres will still leave the market puzzled, given the current proximity to make-up day for banking January. Taps get the cash in faster. Meanwhile, US bonds continue in tecton.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Index on course to top 1,000 points mark

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares stretched to yet new highs again yesterday, and the FT 30 share index is expected by many market men to top the magic 1,000 points mark in this account which ends on Friday.

Government stocks were also strong, climbing by as much as 1½% allowing the Government Broker to sell the remainder of his 9½ per cent 1998 Exchequer "tap".

The market drew strength from an unexpectedly good set of money supply figures which have removed the immediate threat of higher interest rates. Firmer oil prices, the continuing miners' drift back to work and a steadier performance by sterling on the foreign exchange market also helped sentiment.

Equities started firm but then hesitated ahead of the money supply figures and at one time the FT 30 index was up just 2.6

points. But in the huge sigh of relief which greeted the figures, shares bounded ahead and at the close the index was standing at 971.2 - up 15.5 points. It started the present three week account at 926 points.

The more broadly based FT-SE share index was also in record breaking form, closing 14.5 points higher at 1,243.5 points.

Trading was not exceptionally heavy but some institutional buyers were active in a market where jobbers are often

short of stock. American buying was once again evident. Gains were plentiful through the market with almost every sector producing a handsome array of plus signs. Among blue chips - the P & O shipping Group surged 10p to 324p on thoughts that

higher than the market average. Growth is expected from the Far East, where prospects in Hong Kong are now very bright, and from C & W's US businesses. Last summer's full takeover of Mercury Communications also looks good to the City. As a wholly-owned Subsidiary

of C & W, the analysts reckon Mercury can become the one strong competitor for British Telecom which the Government wants to privatise.

Profit forecasts for the year to March 1985 suggest good progress on the £190 million made in 1984. Wood, Mackenzie go for £235 million, while Quilter, Goodison reckon £240 million is in the air.

British Aerospace flew steadily towards its previous best share price level, gaining 8p to 393p and making a two-day gain of 18p. Investors are looking forward to this month's decision by the Government on who will get the contract to supply new training craft for the Air Force. Shorts, the Belfast group, is BAE's will come out the winner.

There is also optimism about the plane maker's sales prospects abroad, including hopes that China will buy British in the next few years.

But some analysts warn that there are long-term worries for BAE. The group has still to sort out what will happen to the Tornado; will there be significant orders from abroad, and can the Air Force afford the replacements it needs?

There is also the prospect of further share sales by the Government, which still has a 48 per cent stake. The Government has already stated its intention to reduce its holding

in 25 per cent, but there is a chance it will sell the lot.

At Hawker Siddeley, the engineers, the share price was still benefiting from recent comment on potential earnings. City men are forecasting profits of around £170 million in the current year, against £137.5 million in 1983 and a forecast £140 million or more in 1984. Yesterday Hawker shares rose 8p to 441p.

Inchcape, the international trading group, moved into the takeover spotlight, rising 11p to 406p. Grand Metropolitan, with its growing American interests, attracted US buyers, rising 8p to 308p.

Howard Machinery jumped 3p to 117p as speculators banked on F. H. Tomkins, the engineering group being developed by ex-Hanson Trust man Mr Greg Hutchings, putting in a bid. Tomkins, which demon-

strated on Monday that the Hutchings' magic is working with more than doubled interim profits, owns 21 per cent of Howard. Tomkins shares rose by 8p to 153p.

Amari, the metals group which suffered a stunning loss last summer, held at 115p as Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, sold 2.7 million shares at 112p, cutting its stakeholding to 4.8 per cent. Amari shares were offered for sale at 110p.

Valin Pollen International, the public relations group, eased 2p to 358p as James Capel, the stockbroker, suggested that year's profit, due tomorrow, will emerge at £575,000 against the flotation forecast of £425,000.

Analysts Mr Neil Blackley and Mr Roger Hardman, who expect present year's profit to be about £800,000, regard the shares as "an excellent investment for the medium to long term" but point out that they

are selling at 34 times tomorrow's expected earnings. Confidential Microwave (Holdings) held at 488p. The company has taken over Truon Printed Circuits, a maker of printed circuit boards, for £650,000 in shares. More than half the shares have been placed by Stock Beech and Co.

Initial Services, the cleaning group in which British Electric Traction has a 40.7 per cent stake, gained 32p to 530p yesterday as market optimism for a renewed bid by BET grows. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is due to give its verdict at the end of this month, and investors reckon the way will be clear for BET to offer 610p, or thereabouts, again.

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National Westminster Bank PLC

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Notice is hereby given that a dividend of 2.45p per share for the half-year ended 31 December 1984 will be paid on 28 February 1985 to holders of the Cumulative Preference Shares registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 24 January 1985.

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- 7, Alva Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PG
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Super Secs

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Buying a house with a view to beating inflation

By Christopher Watman
Property Correspondent

It is difficult to give a precise definition to country houses, and those who comment on them, sell them or buy them are used to categorize the properties as much by price bracket as by architecture, size or location.

Strutt and Parker's review for the south-east has led its authors almost to give up the struggle and to explain that it may be easier to analyse the reasons why owners sell than to try to index the value of country houses.

Accordingly, Christopher Calcutt from Caterbury and Stephen Hardwick from Lewes come up with some silly facts that only emphasise statistics can prove anything.

For example, they report that there were three times as many sellers who were emigrating in 1984 as in 1983, that sales as a result of divorce were considerably down and that there were many sales due to deaths as there had been in 1983. "We would not want to make any predictions about 1985," they wisely conclude.

"The country house market cannot be analysed to the degree that almost the whole of the rest of the property market can. Each house's myriad of inter-related characteristics have to be matched to a greater or lesser extent with the independent and equally complex requirements of each potential purchaser. How can the superb view offered by one four-bedroomed Victorian cottage be equated with the better position of its otherwise equal?" they ask.

Others try to answer. Weller Eggar, with offices in west Surrey and east Hampshire, repeat as a catechism "country, character, garden", and say that in 1984 houses and cottages which fulfil those requirements are at a premium.

Illustrating the point, they say that such a house in Hampshire was selling for £185,000. It was sold for £200,000. Another - offers over £200,000 - was nearly £250,000. Outside Guildford a three-bedroom house in an acre of garden was bought in 1983 for £75,000 and resold, unaltered, for £100,000 a year later.

Weller Eggar note that this year more people have moved for business reasons than to "upmarket" themselves, and that the person moving from choice is unwilling to put his house on the market until he has found his next one. Caution is the key, it seems.

That conclusion is taken up by Hampton and Son looking at the market in Kent and Sussex. Seeing frustrated purchasers who have not been able to find the type of property

Oxnead Hall, near Aylsham, Norfolk, a renovated Elizabethan house for which Savills' Norwich office is seeking offers around £250,000.

they want, and would-be vendors who are seeking valuations now in order to put their houses on the market early this year, they predict a wave of activity before, rather than after, Easter 1985, probably accompanied by price increases of more than 10 per cent.

Hampsons admit there is not yet a "new wave" of confidence among buyers that would encourage them, for example, to double their mortgage, and any increase of much more than 10 per cent would probably have to come from the increasing level of overseas interest in the country house market.

"Country, character, garden" may be Weller Eggar's definition of the house in demand, but to that might well be added above "communications". Anthony Ball, of Strutt and Parker, argues that with the likelihood that the country will continue to come out of the recession, there should be a long-term strengthening of the house market, "particularly at the top end in areas with good access to business centres, especially those recently opened up by new motorways".

This factor has resulted in a marked increase in the prices of houses in Essex, Suffolk and Sussex as a result of the imminent completion of the M25 and to south Hampshire, in anticipation of the completion of the M3 early in 1985.

"There is no indication that the supply of high-quality country houses is increasing, while the number of potential purchasers continues to grow. This must

indicate a lively market in the spring of 1985", Anthony Ball suggests.

"Because of the scarcity factor in the middle to upper end of the property range, I believe that quality houses are likely to appreciate in value more rapidly than the average property over the next year or so. Therefore the message is clear for those contemplating an early improvement in their housing accommodation. An investment now in a quality property must be one of the best options available to beat inflation."

The importance of communications is emphasized by Ian McConnell of Savills. Their Salisbury office reported on the difference of value in country houses lying to the east of the city compared with those on the west side. The buying power of the "commuter" caused values to be 5-10 per cent higher in areas to the east which are accessible to Andover and Winchester stations, and the opening in 1985 of the Poptham Down to Winchester extension of the M3 would increase values further in the areas affected by the already higher prices.

More people are prepared to commute up to 25 miles to places like Wimborne, Poole and Bournemouth, and this is true of other areas where better road and rail communications exist, for example in Suffolk and Norfolk. In Norfolk, known as a low price area because of inaccessibility, prices of rural properties increased in 1984 by 20-30 per cent. It is no longer a low price area.

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Elizabeth Frost, Hannah Hamilton Ltd, Garden House, 57-59 Long Acre, London WC2E 9JZ.

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Enthusiastic college leaver required for varied and interesting position in the Information Department of an Advertising Agency, no Short-hand, 'A' levels preferred. £5,500. Apply in writing only with CV to Lynne Farrar, Leo Burnett Ltd, 48 St Martins Lane, London WC2E 4EJ.

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Export Secretary

Mills & Boon, leading romantic fiction publishers, are looking for a Secretary for their Export Director and lively sales team.

Applicants should have a good educational background, with minimum of 'O' Levels, preferably 'A' Levels, and good organisational ability. Short-hand speeds of 90-100 wpm and fast accurate typing essential, must have good spelling and be numerate.

Applicants will be required to work under pressure in a cheerful environment. 2nd jobber with relevant experience preferred but not essential, minimum age 21 years. Hours are 9-5, but must be flexible to cope with heavy workload.

We are offering a competitive salary and company benefits include L.V.s, season ticket loan, 4 weeks holiday, life assurance and pension schemes and full BUPA coverage.

Applicants please write with full CV quoting current salary to: Mrs. K. Stone, Personnel Manager, Mills & Boon Limited, 15-16 Brook's Mews, London W1A 1DR.

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3. 4 weeks holiday, L.V.s, 15 days allowance. Salary neg. according to experience.

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Salary range £6,500 to £7,500. Apply enclosing full C.V. to: Melinda Kilkenny, The Grayling Co., 1 Deane Yard, London SW1 01-799 9811

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Sir Brian Horrocks: Great flair and no pomposity

By Alan Hamilton

Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks, who gained a greater fame for retelling the battles of the Second World War than for participating in them, has died in a West Sussex nursing home at the age of 89.

General Horrocks, who was seriously wounded at the liberation of Tunis and who carried a quantity of German shrapnel in him for the rest of his life, died last Friday after a year of serious illness. His death was announced yesterday by his lifelong friend and one-time subordinate, Sir Denis Hamilton, chairman of Reuters and former chairman of Times Newspapers.

Sir Denis said of him: "He was unassuming, unassuming, but with great flair. He was a brilliant field commander and adored by the soldiers, who felt he was on their side and not on the side of the officers."

Field-Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, chief of the Defence Staff, said yesterday: "He had great style and dash and always commanded from the front. His personality captured the hearts of all whom he led."

Sir Huw Wheldon, who introduced him to television, said yesterday: "He was a programme in the same way that he won battles; he was absolutely direct, straightforward, and learnt every single word of his script."

"When I first met him I thought he was too handsome, too English, too much of a stereotype. But I rapidly discovered he had something extra: flair and originality."

General Horrocks, according to Sir Huw, would try out his *Men of Action* and later programmes on audiences of women before they went on the air. "If the women, whom he assumed knew nothing of war, could understand them, he was satisfied."

When he entered the House of Lords as Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod General Horrocks endeared himself to his closest associates by referring to his ceremonial uniform as his "rompers" and by secretly wearing a suspender belt underneath to keep his black silk stockings up.

Only a few also knew that the red dispatch box often delivered to him in the Chamber, into which he peered with studied intensity during the more tedious debates, contained all the coupons for that week's football pools.

Obituary, Page 12



Horrocks (left) and Montgomery sharing a snack during the Reichswald battle.



General Horrocks arriving back in Britain after being wounded at Tunis.



Three faces of the General: The former Commander-in-Chief, BAOR, with his insignia (top right); as Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod in the House of Lords; above, receiving from King George VI the insignia of a Companion of the Order of the Bath; and, right, as a television presenter. He is shown in a television studio setting.

He is shown in a television studio setting, presenting the *Men of Action* series.

Letter from Geneva Summit razzmatazz on Peace Avenue

In terms of sheer razzmatazz it was more like the presidential summit now being predicted for later this year than a meeting between two foreign ministers. But then as Mr Robert Vieux, the protocol chief for the city of Geneva, remarked to some of the 700 assembled journalists, the world had high hopes for agreement between the two great powers after 15 months of confrontation.

Despite the intense interest, or perhaps because of it, neither Mr George Shultz nor Mr Andrei Gromyko, were willing to give the slightest hint of what was going on behind the closely guarded doors of the Soviet and American missions on the Avenue de la Paix.

Every now and then Mr Shultz who stayed in the same hotel as the press corps but in an isolated suite, could be seen hurrying through the swing doors on his way to see his Soviet opposite number, preceded by a small army of security men. Later he came back through the doors, again preceded by a steady stream of Service agents on the alert for terrorists.

"Any progress, Mr Shultz?" reporters shouted out as the stocky Secretary of State crossed the lobby, smiling inscrutably beneath his portly hat. He waved non-committally.

The Swiss guards in balaclava helmets and mountain boots waved their light automatic guns dangerously towards the press, held back behind barriers. I don't know if they scare terrorists, but they certainly scare me.

The Russian journalists fared no better, as the Soviet delegation, looking over its shoulder to see what the Americans were doing, maintained a similar silence. The man from Tass was in distress. "Even I haven't been able to get to Lomoiko," he complained, referring to Mr Gromyko's press spokesman.

Geneva is used to such international junketing, and the bankers and business took all this in their stride, only showing mild irritation when the Gromyko and Shultz cavalierly disrupted city traffic.

The Geneva city fathers happily collected thousands of dollars from American television companies, just to restart the 400 ft high fountain in Lake Léman, which normally operates in summer and had to be unfrozen as Geneva shivered in Moscow style sub-zero temperatures.

The shopkeepers and cab drivers also benefited. Even Russians with a few precious dollars and francs could be seen with their noses pressed to windows full of unimaginable luxuries.

In a sense the Swiss capital was an odd choice for what the Soviet side kept insisting were "absolutely new talks", given that Geneva is firmly associated with the old talks.

But if not Geneva, where else? Helsinki might have been possible, but in view of the recent crash of a Soviet missile in northern Finland, perhaps it is fortunate that Helsinki was not chosen. Geneva lives by the neutrality first codified at the Congress of Vienna in 1815 and embodied in the International Red Cross and what is now the United Nations European headquarters, stand close to the American and Soviet missions, forming a vast complex on broad and windy avenues devoted to making a living out of peace rather than commerce or tourism.

Small wonder that lesser fry turned up in Geneva to share a small part of the limelight. Both Mrs Avital Shcharansky, the wife of the imprisoned Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky, and Lady Olga Maitland of the pro-Soviet group "Women and Families for Defence" claimed the attention of the news-hungry media.

Mrs Shcharansky was assured by the Americans that her husband's case was being actively raised by Mr Shultz, and Lady Olga emerged from a meeting with Mr Robert McFarlane, Mr Reagan's National Security Adviser, with the news that he was neither optimistic nor pessimistic about the situation.

Mrs Thatcher, with "more or less" in favour of the controversial Star Wars project.

Richard Owen

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

Paintings and drawings by Louise Calvert and landscapes by David Davies: City Museum and Art Gallery, Priestsgate, Peterborough; Tues to Sat 12 to 5; (ends Feb 9).
Natural History Illustrations by students from Bournemouth and Poole College of Art and Design, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 1; (ends Jan 30).

Exhibitions in progress

Matia: the logic of hallucination;

Glyn Vivian Art Gallery, Alexandra Rd, Swansea; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5 (ends Jan 12).

Light on landscape by John Russell: Impressions Gallery of Photography, 17 Colliclegate, York; Tues to Sat 10 to 6 (ends Jan 12).

Tradition and Renewal: Contemporary art in the German Democratic Republic: The Hatton Gallery, Newcastle University; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4; Sun 2 to 3 (ends Jan 13).

Sculpture by Hebe Comerford: Bolso Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.

5.30, closed Wed and Sun (ends Jan 19).

Watercolours and drawings of Herefordshire: Hereford City Museum, Broad St; Tues to Fri 10 to 6, Thurs 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4; (ends Jan 19).

Photographs, sequences and texts, 1958-1964, by Duane Michals: Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke St, Oxford; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (ends Feb 3).

Engravings and lithographs by Walter Francis Tiffin: Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, The King's House, 65 The Close, Salisbury; Mon to Sat 10 to 4; (ends Mar 2).

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
A Guide to O'Casey's Plays, by John O'Flaherty (Macmillan, £30).
Andarica and the South Atlantic, by Robert Fox (BBC, £12.95).
Biography, Fiction, Fact and Form, by Ian Bruce (Macmillan, £22.95).
Diane Arbus, a biography, by Patricia Bosworth (Holt, £14.95).
Fables of Feeling in Victorian Fiction, by Barbara Hardy (Penguin, £12.50).
Jane Austen's Heroines, Intimacy in Human Relationships, by John Hardy (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £12.95).
Sexual Intimacy, by Andrew M. Greeley (WH Allen, £9.95).
The British in the Sudan 1898-1956, edited by Robert O. Collins and Francis M. Deng (Macmillan, £25).
The Victorian Novel before Victoria, by Elliot Engel and Margaret F. King (Macmillan, £22.50).
When Was Wales, A History of the Welsh, by Gwyn A. Williams (Black Raven Press, £12.95).

Roads

The Midlands M6: Roadworks on both carriageways near Cowley Service station; junctions 4 and 5; roadworks between junction 4 and junction 5; roadworks between junction 5 and junction 6; roadworks between junction 6 and junction 7; roadworks between junction 7 and junction 8; roadworks between junction 8 and junction 9; roadworks between junction 9 and junction 10; roadworks between junction 10 and junction 11; roadworks between junction 11 and junction 12; roadworks between junction 12 and junction 13; roadworks between junction 13 and junction 14; roadworks between junction 14 and junction 15; roadworks between junction 15 and junction 16; roadworks between junction 16 and junction 17; roadworks between junction 17 and junction 18; roadworks between junction 18 and junction 19; roadworks between junction 19 and junction 20; roadworks between junction 20 and junction 21; roadworks between junction 21 and junction 22; roadworks between junction 22 and junction 23; roadworks between junction 23 and junction 24; roadworks between junction 24 and junction 25; roadworks between junction 25 and junction 26; roadworks between junction 26 and junction 27; roadworks between junction 27 and junction 28; roadworks between junction 28 and junction 29; roadworks between junction 29 and junction 30; roadworks between junction 30 and junction 31; roadworks between junction 31 and junction 32; roadworks between junction 32 and junction 33; roadworks between junction 33 and junction 34; roadworks between junction 34 and junction 35; roadworks between junction 35 and junction 36; roadworks between junction 36 and junction 37; roadworks between junction 37 and junction 38; roadworks between junction 38 and junction 39; roadworks between junction 39 and junction 40; roadworks between junction 40 and junction 41; roadworks between junction 41 and junction 42; roadworks between junction 42 and junction 43; roadworks between junction 43 and junction 44; roadworks between junction 44 and junction 45; roadworks between junction 45 and junction 46; roadworks between junction 46 and junction 47; roadworks between junction 47 and junction 48; roadworks between junction 48 and junction 49; roadworks between junction 49 and junction 50; roadworks between junction 50 and junction 51; roadworks between junction 51 and junction 52; roadworks between junction 52 and junction 53; roadworks between junction 53 and junction 54; roadworks between junction 54 and junction 55; roadworks between junction 55 and junction 56; roadworks between junction 56 and junction 57; roadworks between junction 57 and junction 58; roadworks between junction 58 and junction 59; roadworks between junction 59 and junction 60; roadworks between junction 60 and junction 61; roadworks between junction 61 and junction 62; roadworks between junction 62 and junction 63; roadworks between junction 63 and junction 64; roadworks between junction 64 and junction 65; roadworks between junction 65 and junction 66; roadworks between junction 66 and junction 67; roadworks between junction 67 and junction 68; roadworks between junction 68 and junction 69; roadworks between junction 69 and junction 70; roadworks between junction 70 and junction 71; roadworks between junction 71 and junction 72; roadworks between junction 72 and junction 73; roadworks between junction 73 and junction 74; roadworks between junction 74 and junction 75; roadworks between junction 75 and junction 76; roadworks between junction 76 and junction 77; roadworks between junction 77 and junction 78; roadworks between junction 78 and junction 79; roadworks between junction 79 and junction 80; roadworks between junction 80 and junction 81; roadworks between junction 81 and junction 82; roadworks between junction 82 and junction 83; roadworks between junction 83 and junction 84; roadworks between junction 84 and junction 85; roadworks between junction 85 and junction 86; roadworks between junction 86 and junction 87; roadworks between junction 87 and junction 88; roadworks between junction 88 and junction 89; roadworks between junction 89 and junction 90; 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